



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48)
FLEET POST OFFICE
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From: Commanding Officer, USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG 48)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09BH) Washington, DC 20350

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1994

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) USS VANDEGRIFT 1994 Command History

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.

JAC
J. A. CORSI

USS VANDEGRIFT 1994 COMMAND HISTORY

Part I

The mission of the USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48) is "To provide self defense and effectively supplement planned and existing escorts in the protection of underway replenishment groups, amphibious forces and military and mercantile shipping against subsurface, air and surface threats; to conduct ASW operations in conjunction with other control forces tasked to ensure our use of essential sea lanes of communications; and be the best at it." From 1 January to 31 December, VANDEGRIFT was homeported in San Diego, CA. VANDEGRIFT was commanded by CDR David C. Harrison and was under the administrative command of Destroyer Squadron Thirty-Three.

Part II

The following events occurred during 1994.

Date:	Event:
10 JAN-25 FEB	CSSQT
08 Feb	Navigation Check Ride
28 MAR-01 APR	CART IIA
21-25 MAR 94	CART IIB
29-30 MAR	SESI
03-04 MAY	OPPE
09-27 MAY	TSTA I
13 MAY	CMTQ
30 MAY-01 JUN	JPJ Shock Trials
02-06 JUN	MAVUS CNO Project
02 JUN-17 JUN	COMPTUEX 94-4
07-12 JUN	Portland Rose Festival
20 JUN-25 JUN	TSTA II
18-19 JUL	CORTRAMID
25-29 JUL	Magellan Groom
07-12 AUG	LMA/3M Inspection
15-19 AUG	FEP
22 AUG-03 SEP	Magellan II (CNO 1412)
6-11 SEP	CSRR
12-16 SEP	MEFEX 94-4
17-22 SEP	FLEETEX
25 OCT - 25 APR	Deployment
25 OCT-31 OCT	MEFEX 94-4 Transitex III
02 NOV-05 DEC	VANDEGRIFT SAG CMDR
17-20 NOV	JMSDF-USN PASSEX
22 NOV	US-HMS PEACOCK PASSEX
30 NOV	USN RSN PASSEX
05 DEC	CHOP USNAVCENT
23-29 DEC	Arabian Gulf AAWC
24-25 DEC	AJMER Opposed Insertion and Takedown
23-31 DEC	Arabian Gulf MIO Operations

Part III

10 JAN-25 FEB

The "World Famous Battle Frigate" marked her return to fleet operations with a landmark Combat Systems Qualification Trials (CSSQT) in Jan 1994. During this challenging qualification period, VANDEGRIFT expertly flexed her newly installed state-of-the-art Mk 92 Mod 6 (CORT) "New Threat Upgrade" weapons system. The culmination of the trials were the highly successful firings of three standard missiles, the Mk 75 76mm gun and the Close-In-Weapon System (CIWS). Combat Systems and Operations Department personnel performed flawlessly throughout the trials. Analysis of missile telemetry evaluated all three shots as "kills." VANDEGRIFT's performance was praised by the inspection team as the "best Mk 92 Mod 6 performance seen to date." They also stated that "[VANDEGRIFT's] crew ... learned, mastered and employed the CORT/IADT upgrade to perfection." In addition, VANDEGRIFT consistently scored high marks with her gun batteries, destroying two TDU's and numerous surface targets in the process. VANDEGRIFT's ability to successfully demonstrate the performance of SM-1 Block VI(B) missiles against a simulated Exocet threat is particularly noteworthy in that it represents a first among Oliver Hazard Perry Class frigates.

29-30 MAR

Daily commitment to ordnance management and strict adherence to the highest standards of personal qualifications, personnel training and weapons handling virtually guaranteed zero explosive safety violations during VANDEGRIFT's inter-deployment cycle. The effectiveness of VANDEGRIFT's Shipboard Explosives Safety Program was rigorously evaluated by NAVSEACENPAC Explosives Inspection Team - zero major discrepancies were noted. As a result of Combat systems Department's uncompromising commitment to explosive safety and attention to detail, VANDEGRIFT not only successfully completed the SESI but safely conducted three major ammunition onloads and numerous smaller handling evolutions without incident or risk to personnel or equipment.

03-04 MAY

VANDEGRIFT clearly set the standard for engineering Excellence in the Pacific Fleet in 1994. Scheduled several months

earlier in the training cycle than is the norm, VANDEGRIFT's 3-4 May 1994 Operational Propulsion Plant Examination was extraordinarily successful. The exam was executed in an extremely efficient manner, lasting a mere 36 hours from start to finish. Material Condition was "EXCELLENT". Cleanliness, Preservation and Stowage was also graded "EXCELLENT." To place this tremendous achievement in perspective, one has only to compare the very small number of 56 major deficiencies noted by the Propulsion Examining Board against the class average of 138. Of particular note, the PEB Senior Examiner had not previously assigned a grade of Excellent to any ship during any OPPE. Firefighting was graded as "GOOD". VADM Robinson, Commander, Naval Surface Forces Pacific called VANDEGRIFT'S OPPE "...undoubtedly one of the best, and shortest, FFG-7 OPPE's ever!"

13 MAY

VANDEGRIFT completed a highly successful Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ) in May 1994, six weeks ahead of schedule. The Combat Systems and Operations Departments orchestrated an aggressive training program which allowed the training received during the Tailored Ship Training Assessment (TSTA I) to be upgraded to full certification. Most noteworthy was the high level of knowledge and performance demonstrated by the teams despite a large influx of new personnel since the completion of VANDEGRIFT's ten-month extended availability.

30 MAY-17 JUN

On 30 May 1994, VANDEGRIFT conducted a short-notice underway to support the JOHN PAUL JONES shock trials, after which VANDEGRIFT departed the SOCAL Opareas for the Portland Rose Festival. While enroute Portland, VANDEGRIFT participated in COMPTUEX 94-4 with USS CHANCELLORSVILLE (COMDESRON ONE FIVE embarked) and USS MERRILL. Concurrently, VANDEGRIFT conducted CNO Special Project "MAVUS" testing of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.

20 JUN-25 JUN

VANDEGRIFT's performance during the TSTA/FEP process was nothing short of spectacular. Consistently demonstrating an extremely high level of warfare proficiency in all areas, VANDEGRIFT's performance during FEP was the best to date in DESRON 33. This

accomplishment is even more noteworthy because it was achieved without the benefit of a TSTA III period. The only warfare area not graded at the FEP level was ASW (Sonar) which could not be adequately evaluated because of an OBT casualty. This casualty was the sole equipment problem experienced during TSTA. VANDEGRIFT successfully completed 100 percent of her "core" and 97 percent of the basic mission area exercises during the TSTA training cycle. VANDEGRIFT emerged from this basic training process on par with top performing PACFLT ships much farther advanced in their training cycles. In the process, VANDEGRIFT successfully engaged and destroyed three towed surface targets (ASU-8/18-SF), four towed air targets (AAW-12/20/21-SF) and successfully conducted a Mk 46 Rextorp firing. A Total Ship Survivability (TSS) exercise was satisfactory completed during the Final Evaluation Period. VANDEGRIFT's Combat Systems Training Team members were evaluated as "extremely knowledgeable and proficient in their respective areas of expertise." VANDEGRIFT's performance was characterized by LCDR (b) (6) of Afloat Training Group as "the best performance by a frigate yet." ASW (sonar) was re-evaluated by CDS-33 as being at the FEP level 20 Oct 1994.

07-12 AUG

The many unqualified successes continued during VANDEGRIFT's Logistics Management Assessment/3M Inspection. VANDEGRIFT's commitment to excellence in material management was clearly demonstrated by the extraordinary performance of the supervisors and maintenance men during this inspection. Superior administrative ability and technical skills coupled with superb attention to detail resulted in the flawless completion of 36 for 36 spotchecks sampled, helping VANDEGRIFT earn the highest PACFLT 3M inspection grade ever recorded for a ship of this class. This extraordinary performance is another testimony to VANDEGRIFT's ability to routinely maintain the highest levels of material excellence.

22 AUG-03 SEP

Displaying exceptional ASW expertise, VANDEGRIFT's performance during CNO Special Project 1214 (Magellan II), conducted 3-18 Aug 94, was flawless. VANDEGRIFT's ASW team aggressively integrated traditional

monostatic active and passive sonar with multi-static Low Frequency Active Acoustic (LFAA) transmissions and provided a very comprehensive evaluation of this cutting edge sonar capability with respect to its usefulness in fleet tactical operations in littoral waters. VANDEGRIFT's superlative performance contributed significantly to the Navy's front line ASW initiatives and won the following praise from Naval Sea Systems Command: "USS VANDEGRIFT's total support, enthusiasm and can-do attitude were evidenced from the first meeting and throughout the test period. It was a pleasure working with the professionals of VANDEGRIFT."

12-22 SEP

VANDEGRIFT's performance during COMPTUEX 94-4, FLEETEX 94-1 and MEFEX Phase I, II and III was aggressive and spirited. VANDEGRIFT was commended by Commander, DESTROYER SQUADRON SEVENTEEN for "superlative performance" during FLEETEX 94-1.

25-31 OCT

VANDEGRIFT's flawless performance as OTC/AAWC for the CTU 35.8.1 three-ship MEF Surface Action Group won the following praise from COMDESRON FIVE: Your planning and execution of numerous advance level exercises as well as performing duties as MEF SAG AAWC for TU 35.8.1 was superb. VANDEGRIFT's SOE participation was characterized by exceptional enthusiasm and professionalism. From comm checks to quickdraw gunnery events to the Mini-MEFEX at PMRF Barking Sands, VANDEGRIFT participated to the max. You are most certainly a force to be reckoned with."

02 NOV-05 DEC

After departing Pearl Harbor enroute the Arabian Gulf, VANDEGRIFT assumed duties as SAG Commander for the MEF 94-4 three-ship SAG. During the transit, VANDEGRIFT coordinated and implemented an intensive training schedule which prepared the deploying units for operations in the Arabian Gulf. Included in this training schedule were numerous VBSS exercises which proved invaluable in preparations for Maritime Interdiction Operations.

17-30 NOV

VANDEGRIFT acted as overall OTC and AAWC during USN-JMSDF PASSEX, US-RN PASSEX and USN-RSN PASSEX. Planning and conducting challenging exercises in all mission areas, VANDEGRIFT's exceptional performance helped

to promote friendly relations between participating nations and develop mutual trust and understanding of each navy's tactical procedures.

03 DEC

After completing a flawless Straits of Malacca transit, VANDEGRIFT proceeded to the Arabian Gulf. While enroute, VANDEGRIFT received tasking to coordinate and execute an emergency medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) from the Japanese merchant ship JINSEI MARU. VANDEGRIFT's embarked helicopter, Saberhawk 67, flew over 150 miles to the vessel to rescue an injured crewmember suffering from severe abdominal wounds. After a brief stop to refuel, Saberhawk 67 then flew the injured crewman to Colombo, Sri Lanka medical facilities. VANDEGRIFT's corpsman and aircrew members worked valiantly to save the life of the injured crewman. The JINSEI MARU's parent company, Tanda Sangyo Kisen Kaisha, LTD., expressed great gratitude for VANDEGRIFT's efforts to save their crewmember.

23-29 DEC

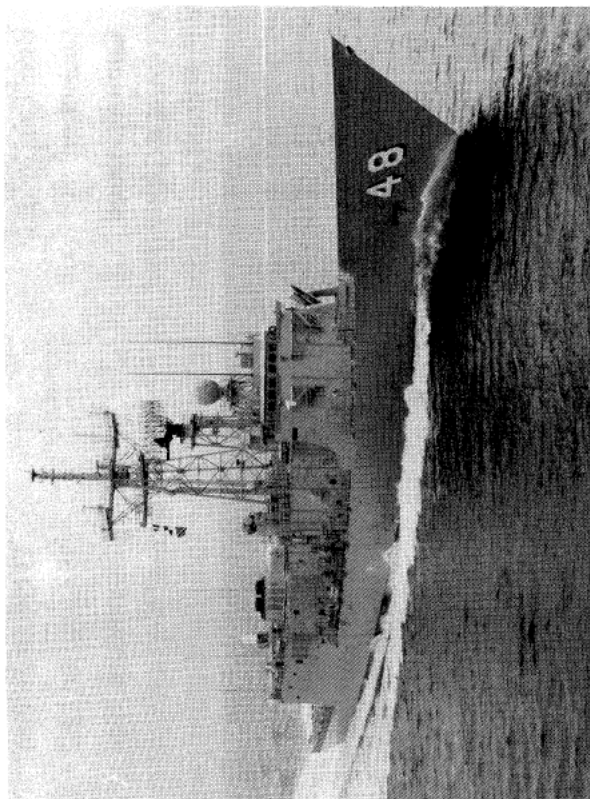
VANDEGRIFT's performance as Arabian Gulf Anti-Air Warfare Commander and "REDCROWN" was truly superlative. As AAWC, VANDEGRIFT improved Link 11 interoperability and reduced net cycle time in a joint warfare environment, again demonstrating impressive proficiency in combat systems readiness and warfare operations.

Part IV

The following items are included as part of VANDEGRIFT's Command History 1994.

- (1) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet, Including Commanding Officer's Biography
- (2) Commanding Officer Photograph
- (3) Ship Photograph
- (4) News Articles

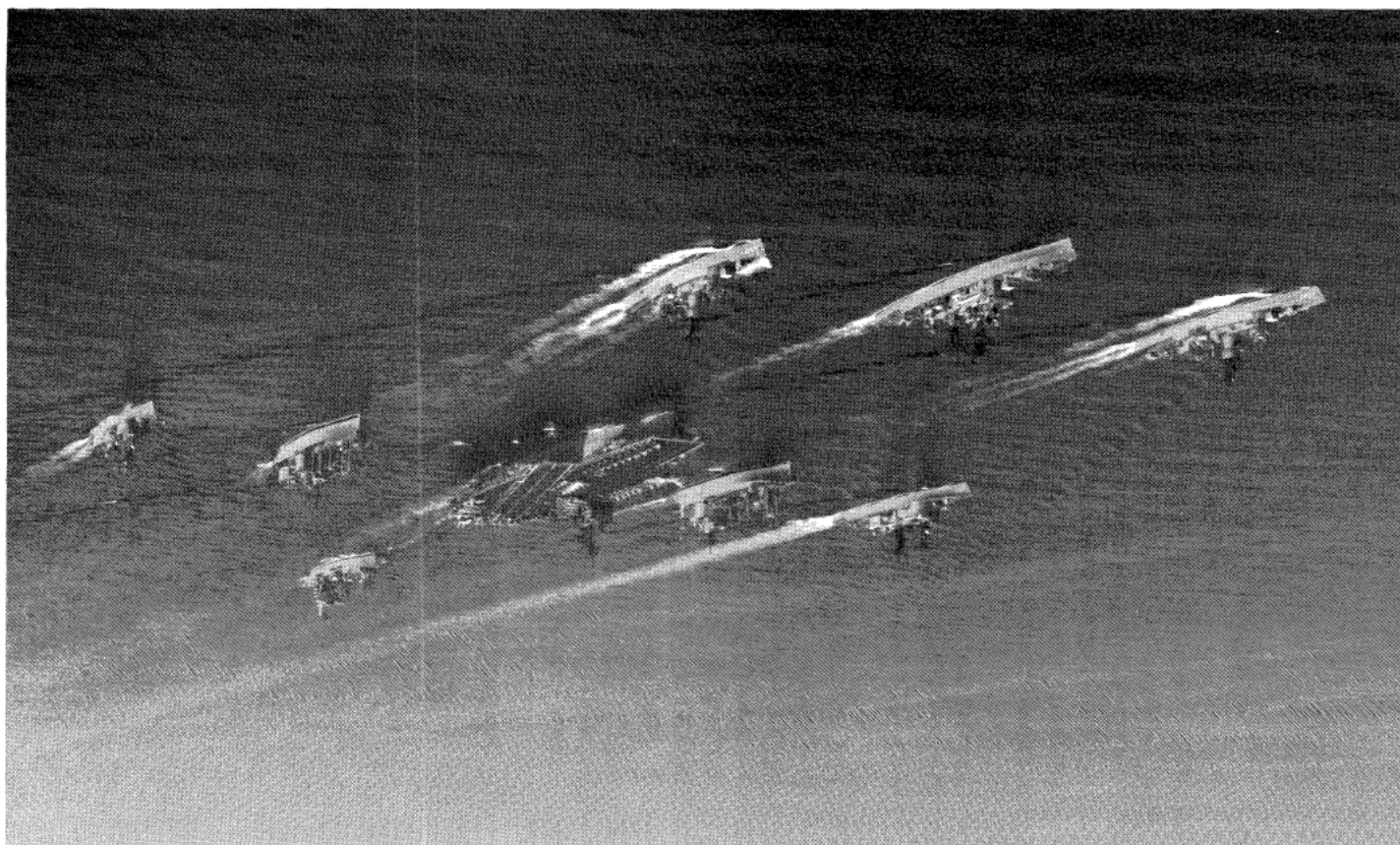
WELCOME ABOARD



USS VANDEGRIFT
(FFG-48)



“VANDEGRIFT STEAMING IN FORMATION WITH KITTY HAWK BATTLE GROUP”



USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48)

The officers and crew in USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48) extend to you our greetings and welcome you aboard the finest guided missile frigate in the world.

Keel Laid	13 October 1981
Launched	15 October 1982
Commissioned	24 November 1984

USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48) is the forty-second ship of the FFG-7 (Oliver Hazard Perry) class. She was built by Todd Pacific Shipyards Corporation, Seattle, Washington. VANDEGRIFT's mission is to escort and protect convoys, underway replenishment groups, amphibious landing groups and carrier battle groups. VANDEGRIFT's missile, gun and anti-submarine warfare systems, combined with her quick reaction and high-speed capability, make her a valuable asset in today's multi-threat environment.

Displacement:	4100 tons
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Dimensions:	Length 453 ft. Beam 45 ft. Draft 25 ft.
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Complement:	15 Officers, 186 Enlisted
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Propulsion:	Two LM-2500 gas turbine engines producing 40,000 hp; one shaft with controllable pitch propeller
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Armament:	Mark 13 Anti-Aircraft Missile Launcher Mark 75 76mm Gun Mark 46 Anti-Submarine Torpedoes Two SH-60B "Seahawk" Helicopters Mark 15 Anti-Missile, Rapid-Fire 20mm Gun Close-In Weapons System
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Combat Systems:	AN/SQS-56 Digital Sonar Mk92 Mod 6 Fire Control System AN/SPS-55 Surface Search Radar AN/SPS-49 Air Search Radar Tactical Towed Array Sonar SLQ-32 (V)5 Electronic Warfare System Passive Radar Countermeasures System
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**GENERAL
ALEXANDER A.
VANDEGRIFT
USMC**



Alexander A. Vandegrift was born on March 13, 1887, in Charlottesville, Virginia. Attending the University of Virginia, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1909. In 1912, Vandegrift participated in the capture of Coyotepe, Nicaragua, and two years later in the occupation of Veracruz, Mexico. He also served aboard the USS MINNESOTA, USS VIRGINIA, USS DELAWARE and USS CHESTER until ordered to Haiti in 1915 for action against the Cacos Bandits. For service in Haiti, where he continued to serve in various capacities until 1923, the President of the Republic of Haiti awarded him their Distinguished Service Medal and the Haitian Medaille Militaire with one Silver Star. The following 18 years were spent in various posts and stations in the United States, with the exception of two tours in China.

In 1942 Vandegrift sailed to the South Pacific as Commanding General of the 1st Marine Division and led his men in the initial landing of the U.S. Forces against the Japanese at Guadalcanal. For his actions, he was awarded the Navy Cross and the Medal of Honor.

With the successful conclusion of the Solomon Islands campaign, Vandegrift assumed command of the 1st Marine Amphibious Corps in July, 1943 and directed the initial landing at Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville.

On January 1, 1945, Vandegrift was appointed to the rank of General, the first active duty Marine officer to reach four star rank. He then served as Commandant of the Marine Corps, and in this position guided the Corps' post-war reorganization and demobilization.

General Vandegrift retired from active duty in April 1949.

**COMMANDER
JOSEPH A. CORSI
UNITED STATES NAVY**

Commander Joseph A. Corsi, a native of (b) (6), graduated from Purdue University in 1975 and received his commission in June 1976 after completion of Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island.

He was assigned temporarily to the staff of Commander Naval Air Force U.S. Pacific Fleet for three months prior to attending Surface Warfare Officers School (Basic) in San Diego, California. From March 1977 until May 1980, Commander Corsi served as Forward Propulsion Group Division Officer and Electrical Officer in USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63).

Commander Corsi then completed a two year assignment as Foreign Student Training Officer at Service School Command, San Diego. After graduation from Surface Warfare Officers School (Department Head), Commander Corsi served as Chief Engineer in both USS RAMSEY (FFG 2) from August 1983 to March 1985, and in USS WILLIAM H. STANDLEY (CG 32) from April 1985 to November 1986.

Following his department head tours, Commander Corsi reported to Washington, D. C. and was assigned as Assistant Operations and Maintenance Officer, Surface Ship Propulsion Improvement Program, Naval Sea Systems Command from December 1986 to January 1989.

Returning to sea duty, he served as Executive Officer in USS ROBISON (DDG 12) from April 1989 to October 1990, and as Chief Staff Officer in the staff of Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-THREE from October 1990 to October 1992. Just prior to reporting to USS VANDEGRIFT, he served as Joint Plans and Exercises Officer in the staff of Commander THIRD Fleet.

Commander Corsi's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy Achievement Medal and various service and campaign awards.

Commander Corsi is married to the former (b) (6) of (b) (6).



HISTORY OF THE VANDEGRIFT

USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48), named for General Alexander A. Vandegrift, United States Marine Corps, was built at Todd Pacific Shipyard in Seattle, Washington and was commissioned on November 24, 1984. The ship's inaugural cruise began on January 5, 1987. During the course of this around-the-world cruise, she sailed three oceans, seven seas and visited four continents. The plankowners also crossed the international date line, equator, Greenwich meridian, and sailed through the straits of Gibraltar, and the Suez and Panama Canals. VANDEGRIFT conducted operations with USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63) in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. These operations were highlighted by an air and sea power demonstration for the President of Pakistan. Port visits included Pearl Harbor; Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines; Karachi, Pakistan; Mombasa, Kenya; Maxime, France; Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; St. Croix and St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. VANDEGRIFT returned to Long Beach in June, 1987.

The ship's second deployment began in June, 1988, returning her to operations in the Arabian Gulf shortly after the cease fire between Iran and Iraq. VANDEGRIFT's mission while on patrol in the northern Arabian Gulf focused on providing protection and logistic support for joint forces in the area. VANDEGRIFT also participated in numerous Earnest Will missions, escorting U.S. and reflagged Kuwaiti tankers. Port visits included Pearl Harbor; Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines; Bahrain; Pattaya Beach, Thailand and Hong Kong. VANDEGRIFT returned home in December, 1988.

The ship's third deployment, which began in March, 1990, once again returned her to the Arabian Gulf. While serving in the Middle East Force, VANDEGRIFT patrolled the northern Arabian Gulf and conducted Earnest Will escort missions. As the senior ship on station in the Arabian Gulf during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, VANDEGRIFT served as the Anti-Air Warfare Commander and Electronic Warfare Coordinator until relieved by a cruiser. VANDEGRIFT participated in Operation Desert Shield's Maritime Interception Operations with units from the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and France. Ports of call included Pearl Harbor; Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines; Phuket, Thailand; Singapore and Hong Kong. VANDEGRIFT returned home to Long Beach after the extended deployment in October, 1990.

In April 1992, VANDEGRIFT began her fourth deployment to the Arabian Gulf. Aside from the normal patrolling duties, she participated in exercises with the navies of India, Qatar, and Pakistan, helping to increase U.S. relations in that area. She returned to Long Beach in October, 1992.

Since leaving the shipyard in November, 1993, VANDEGRIFT has completed a highly successful Fleet Exercise; been recognized with the COMNAVSURFPAC Food Service Award; achieved three successful missile firings; and completed a highly successful Operational Engineering Exam (OPPE). VANDEGRIFT's homeport is San Diego, CA.

The ship's decorations include the Meritorious Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and three Sea Service Ribbons.



ound The Fleet

d at Pearl, bound for Haiti

harbor, the around-the-clock onload started Dec. 19 and continue most of the week, with both ships getting under way Dec. 26. The operation represents the first time two ships have been onloaded simultaneously at Pearl Harbor since the Vietnam War.

"If the Navy doesn't do its part, the Army won't get out of here," said Commander Steve Sterrett, terminals director at FISC. It was a relatively short-use project," said Sterrett. "In exercises like Team Spirit, we follow a 120-day timeline for onloading.

"In this case we followed a much abbreviated three-week timeline. It's been a scramble, but everyone pulled together beautifully. This is a terrific example of inter-service support."

In the three-week timeline, FISC follows a stringent plan beginning with cargo receipt, inspection and documentation, followed by cargo staging and pre-stow, and concluding with the ship-loading.

Inventory in the current onload consists of 1,000 wheeled vehicles, 39 helicopters, and 40, 20-foot containers, totaling approximately 160,000 square feet when stowed.

Sterrett said nearly 80 personnel from more than twelve commands are participating in the onload and include: the 25th I.D. deploying units; 25th I.D. (light) Port Support Activity; 45th Support Group, U.S. Army, Hawaii; Navy Cargo Handling Group; Headquarters, Military Traffic Management Command Falls Church, Va.; MTMC

Wheeler Army Airfield; Military Sealift Command-Tagos; U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Shafter; FISC Guam; and the 1302nd, 1313th and 1317th MTMC.

FISC's Pearl Harbor terminal, located on the Pearl City Peninsula, is one of only three terminals owned by the Navy. The others are located in Guam and Yokosuka, Japan. All other O.J. terminals are owned by the Army.

Under the command of Captain Jeff Wagner, SC, FISC's mission is to provide supplies and logistics support services to Naval and other military operating forces and supporting commands in the mid-Pacific region.

Editor's note: JO2 Robert Benson is assigned to Naval Base Pearl Harbor Public Affairs Office.



Photo by JO2 Robert Benson

A humvee from the 21st Infantry Division at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, awaits loading onto the *MV American Condor* last week during a four-day, around-the-clock, onload, which was conducted by the Fleet Industrial Supply Center at Pearl Harbor. About 1,000 vehicles, 39 helicopters and 40 containers bound for Haiti were loaded in support of Operation Uphold Democracy.

City of Solana Beach adopts *USS Vandegrift*

By Lt. j.g. Mark R. Garcia
Special to *The Compass*

SAN DIEGO — The Solana Beach City Council, acting on a request from the Americans Supporting Americans program, recently voted unanimously to adopt *USS Vandegrift* (FFG 48).

The ASA program, which originated during the Vietnam War, is designed to increase the

morale of servicemembers abroad by letting them know there are Americans back home who support them 100 percent.

ASA was founded in 1968 when the city of San Mateo, Calif., adopted a company of soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division. ASA evolved further during Operation Desert Storm, becoming a nationwide organization. ASA now provides a link between more than 60 military

units and the small towns across America that have adopted them.

While numerous other military units have been adopted in the past, the San Diego-based *Vandegrift* is the first ship to be adopted under ASA; thanks to hard work by Executive Director Linda Patterson and the hospitality of the people of Solana Beach.

The City Council resolution

came at an opportune time, as *Vandegrift* recently deployed to the Arabian Gulf and spent the holiday season away from home. In a letter to *Vandegrift's* commanding officer, Solana Beach Mayor Paul Tompkins stated "the City Council was enthusiastic about the program" and was "anxious to get started."

In addition, Tompkins conveyed to the crew how

"extremely proud we are of all of you and that wherever our country sends you, in defense of our great nation or on peace-keeping missions, you know that we are committed to do whatever we can to maintain our support to all of you."

Vandegrift will be deployed to the Arabian Gulf until the spring of 1995.

Editor's Note: Lt. j.g. Garcia is assigned to USS Vandegrift.

U.S. ships aid injured Japanese

Emergency medical evacuation is performed in the Indian Ocean

By Lt. j.g. David Bateshanksy

Special to The Compass

ABOARD USS VANDEGRIFT — During the early afternoon of Dec. 8, while transmitting the Indian Ocean, the ship was in the Arabian Gulf in company with USS *David R Ray* (DD 971) and USS *Jarrett* (FFG 48). USS *Vandegrift* (FFG 48) was tasked by Commander, 7th Fleet to conduct an emergency medical evacuation of a critically injured crewmember from the Japanese vehicle carrier *Jinsei Maru*. At 12:30 p.m. local time, the *Jinsei Maru* was more than 230 nautical miles east of *Vandegrift*, so *Vandegrift* reversed course and placed *Jinsei Maru* at flank speed.

Lonewolf 56, USS *David R Ray*'s SH-60B helicopter, was directed to locate *Jinsei Maru* while *Vandegrift* closed in on the Japanese ship.

Personnel prepared to launch the embarked SH-60B helicopter, *Saberhawk* 67, to contact *Jinsei Maru* using Inmarsat satellite telephone system and *Vandegrift* crewmember Storekeeper 1st Class Daniel Talley, who is fluent in Japanese, relayed the Medvac plans to the vessel's master.

Saberhawk was launched as soon as *Vandegrift* was within evacuation range. Lonewolf 50, having already located the Japanese ship on

radar, directed *Saberhawk* 67 to the *Jinsei Maru*'s location, saving critical minutes. *Saberhawk* 67 hovered overhead and lowered *Vandegrift*'s corpsman, Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Tijuana Milton, to the deck of the Japanese ship.

Milton immediately provided emergency medical treatment to the crewmember who had suffered a severe abdominal wound. Once stabilized, the patient and the corpsman were hoisted aboard *Saberhawk* 67 for the flight to a Sri Lankan hospital.

Saberhawk returned to the *Vandegrift* to refuel and then continued west to Ratmalana Air Base in Sri Lanka.

Shortly before landing, the patient experienced cardiac arrest. With the help of Aviation Antisubmarine Warfare Second Class (AW) David Scarbrough, Milton performed CPR until *Saberhawk* then returned to *Vandegrift*, completing a round trip of more than 750 nautical miles.

Vandegrift and *David R Ray* were moving from Hong Kong to Bahrain with USS *Jarrett* when the call for help came.

The three ships are en route to the Persian Gulf, where they will augment the Middle East force.

Editor's note: Lt. j.g. Bateshanksy is assigned to USS *Vandegrift*.

Vandegrift catches up with scofflaw ship

By Cmdr. T.R. Williams

Special to *The Compass*

IN THE ARABIAN GULF — Christmas morning in the Arabian Gulf held a few surprises for the Honduran-flagged merchant ship *Ajmer*, one of several ships diverted from their intended port of call because they were suspected of carrying contraband Iraqi cargo.

In an apparent attempt to evade the multinational ships enforcing the United Nations sanctions against Iraq, *Ajmer* left the anchorage where she was being held while awaiting a divert port. USS *Vandegrift* (FFG 48) attempted unsuccessfully to contact *Ajmer* by radio and it became apparent that the ship was not going to respond to *Vandegrift's* directions. Elements of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (special operations capable) and the

■ Deployed ship *Vandegrift* is adopted by Solana Beach. Story, Page A-7.

Essex Amphibious Ready Group were loaded to board the ship via "fastropes" from CH-46E helicopters. A maritime special purpose force, made up of specially trained Marines from Force Reconnaissance Platoon, Battalion Landing Team, 3/1 and Navy SEALs from SEAL Team 5, took control of

Ajmer and directed the ship back to the anchorage.

Ajmer was in poor condition and was experiencing some flooding. A rescue and assistance team from USS *Essex* (LHD 2) went aboard to help control the rising water and to make repairs.

The operation was made more diffi-

See *Vandegrift*, Page A-8

Vandegrift

Continued from Page A-1

cult by 30-knot winds and six to eight foot seas that eliminated the possibility of transporting personnel by small boats. Teams had to be brought in by helicopter, requiring precise air-manship by the pilots of HMM-161 and HC-11.

The 13th MEU is based at Camp Pendleton. The *Essex* ARG, commanded by commander, Amphibious Squadron 5, includes USS *Essex* (LHD 2), USS *Ogden* (LPD 5), and USS *Fort Fisher* (LSD 40). All three ships are homeported in San Diego, as is USS *Vandegrift* (FFG 48).

Editor's Note: Cmdr. T.R. Williams is assigned to the *Essex* ARG.

World News Briefs

Captive U.S. Pilot Spends

in North Korea

Marines, Seals board freighter to enforce in U.N. gulf embargo

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (Reuters) — U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf Sunday boarded a vessel carrying dates that tried to escape from U.S. ships enforcing a trade embargo on Iraq, a navy spokesman said.

Commander T. McCreary said 24 Marines and Navy Seals slid down ropes from a hovering helicopter onto the Honduran-flagged Ajmir after it "tried to make a run last night and escape from the U.S. ship that was watching over it."

The U.S. Navy diverts and inspects ships in the gulf to enforce a U.N. trade embargo imposed on Iraq for invading Kuwait in August 1990.

A U.S. team last week boarded the Ajmir for inspection and found

a cargo of dates, which the Navy says were from Iraq. It detained the ship until it could be diverted to a gulf port.

McCreary said the Ajmir turned out the lights and ignored radio signals as it steamed away late Saturday night from the U.S. frigate Vandegrift.

"It was very clear to us she was trying to leave the area we had designated for her," he said. The frigate trailed the cargo vessel until morning when it was light enough to board, he said.

They also sent Harrier jets to get its attention, he said.

The Ajmir is one of at least four vessels the Navy has diverted since Nov. 30 on the grounds they were almost certainly violating the U.N. embargo on Iraqi exports.

is in good health, but it has not allowed any foreign contact with him.

U.S. Forces Seize Vessel Violating Iraq Embargo

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Dec. 25 (Reuters) — American forces in the Persian Gulf boarded a vessel today after it tried to escape from ships enforcing the trade em-

bargo on Iraq, a spokesman for the United States Navy said.

American forces had boarded the Honduran-flagged ship, the Ajmir, last week for inspection and found a cargo of dates that were believed to be from Iraq, a violation of the embargo imposed after the gulf war. The ship was detained to be diverted to a nearby port.

American marines and Navy Seals boarded the ship by ropes from a hovering helicopter after it "tried to make a run last night and escape from the U.S. ship that was watching over it," said the spokesman, Comdr. T. McCreary.

Commander McCreary said the Ajmir had turned out its lights and ignored radio signals as it steamed away from the frigate Vandegrift.

Turkish Military Raids Kurdish Guerrilla Area

TUNCALI, Turkey, Dec. 25 (Reuters) — Thousands of Turkish troops moved through a remote, snow-covered ravine in eastern Turkey today looking for Kurdish guerrillas, military officials said.

At least two guerrillas from the Kurdistan Workers Party and one soldier were killed in the drive in the Tunceli province, villagers said.

The Turkish army has been carrying out a campaign against the separatist Kurds for weeks. Military officials said 10,000 troops took part in today's drive.

The army says the area is one of the last rebel strongholds in Tunceli, and that 1,000 rebels are believed to be there, running out of food in heavy snow.

بسم الله ابر حمن الرحيم

درهمان

۲۸ صفحہ

الراي كاد

تأسست في ۲۰ أكتوبر ۱۹۶۹م

الأحد ۲۸ شعبان ۱۴۱۵هـ - الموافق ۲۹ يناير ۱۹۹۵م

الرائي كاد

۲



تفقد البارجة «فاندي جرفت»

مقر القاسمي يستقبل قائد بارجة أمريكية

استقبل صاحب السمو الشيخ صقر بن محمد القاسمي عضو المجلس الأعلى حاكم رأس الخيمة بمكتبه في الديوان الأميري قبل ظهر أمس المقدم جوزيف كورسي قائد البارجة الأمريكية «فاندي جرفت» التي تزور البلاد حالياً وترسو في ميناء صقر برأس الخيمة.

وحضر المقابلة اللواء الشيخ سلطان بن صقر القاسمي نائب حاكم رأس الخيمة قائد اللواء بدر الثاني والشيخ سعود بن صقر القاسمي رئيس الديوان الأميري برأس الخيمة وسعادة اللواء رثر روو السفير الأمريكي لدى الدولة والسيد ديفيد بيرس القنصل الأمريكي العام بدبي والملحق العسكري الأمريكي لدى الدولة. وهذا وقد تم تبادل الاحاديث الودية والهيايا التذكارية بمناسبة زيارة البارجة التي تستغرق ثلاثة ايام. وقد قام صاحب السمو الشيخ صقر بن محمد القاسمي عضو المجلس الأعلى حاكم رأس الخيمة بعد ظهر أمس بزيارة القرافطة الأمريكية «فاندي جرفت» التي ترسو في ميناء صقر برأس الخيمة.. ورافق سموه في هذه الزيارة اللواء الشيخ سلطان بن صقر القاسمي نائب حاكم رأس الخيمة قائد اللواء بدر الثاني وعدد من الشيوخ.

وكان في استقبال سموه عند سلم القرافطة ولديم ارثر روو السفير الأمريكي لدى الدولة والمقدم جوزيف كورسي قائد القرافطة وعدد من ضباطها وقد أبت التحية اللى سموه لالة من الجنود ثم قام سموه بحفقد اقسام القرافطة واستمع من قائدها ان شرح عن طبيعة عملها والمهام الموكلة اليها..



(وام)

خلال الاستقبال

صقر استقبل قائد بارجة امريكية

استقبل صاحب السمو الشيخ صقر بن محمد القاسمي عضو المجلس الاعلى حاكم رأس الخيمة بمكتبه في الديوان الاميري قبل ظهر امس المقدم جوزيف كورس قائد البارجة الامريكية «فاندي جرفت» التي تزور البلاد حالياً وترسو في ميناء صقر برأس الخيمة.

وحضر المقابلة اللواء الشيخ سلطان بن صقر القاسمي نائب حاكم رأس الخيمة قائد لواء بدر الثاني، والشيخ سعود بن صقر القاسمي رئيس الديوان الاميري برأس الخيمة، ووليم آرثر روو السفير الاميري لدى الدولة وديفيد بيرس القنصل الاميري بدبي والملحق العسكري الاميري لدى الدولة.

وقد تم تبادل الاحاديث الودية والهدايا التذكارية بمناسبة زيارة البارجة التي تستغرق ثلاثة ايام.

وقد قام صاحب السمو حاكم رأس الخيمة بعد ظهر امس بزيارة الفرقاطة الامريكية التي ترسو في ميناء صقر برأس الخيمة.

ورافق سموه في هذه الزيارة اللواء الشيخ سلطان بن صقر القاسمي وعدد من الشيوخ.

وكان في استقبال سموه عند سلم الفرقاطة السفير الاميري لدى الدولة، والمقدم جوزيف كورسي قائد الفرقاطة وعدد من ضباطها.

وقد أدت التحية الى سموه ثلة من الجنود، ثم قام سموه بتفقد أقسام الفرقاطة واستمع من قائدها الى شرح عن طبيعة عملها والمهام الموكولة اليها.

مع وفد من وزيرستان للات جوية منتظمة

يكرم رئيس دائرة الطيران المدني رئيس
س مع وفد رسمي رفيع المستوى من
رئيسالجمهورية الذي يزور جن
عات ذات الاهتمام المشتركة بما في ذلك
بي وقرقيزستان حيث تم الاتفاق على
قريب. وقدم هاتين سلتيكيس
التسهيلات التجارية في دبي معربا عن
ات اسيا الوسطى حيث يقوم مجلس
التنظيم زيارات مسؤولين منها الى دبي.
بارة في حملتنا لاقامة علاقات طويلة
الوسطى ويسمى هذا الوقت لاجار
ات حكومية مختلفة في قرقيزستان
على البنية التحتية والتسهيلات للتجارة
نموذجية من الاعمال المعلومة للحكومة
رة رئيسية على تبادل المعلومات والاكار
بين.

معرض تجاري فرنسي بلدي ديسمبر المقبل تعيين مستشارين اقتصاديين فرنسيين بالامارات

اجتمع سعيد جمعه النابودة رئيس مجلس ادارة غرفة تجارة وصناعة دبي اسس مع جان بول باري السفير
الفرنسي لدى الدولة.. وتقرر في الاجتماع اقامة معرض فرنسي شامل في دبي يستهدف توسيع التبادل التجاري
واقساح المجال امام تاسيس المزيد من المشاريع الصناعية المشتركة بين الامارات وفرنسا.. وسيقام المعرض في
مركز دبي التجاري العالمي من ٣ الى ٨ ديسمبر المقبل.

والفرع الفرنسي الذي يفتتحه غرفة دبي حيث
قام وفد من الغرفة بزيارة فرنسا
ونظم ندوات لرجال الاعمال في باريس
وليل كما اجتمع خلالها مسؤولين
الاقتصاديين في العاصمة الفرنسية
وحدث سبل توثيق العلاقات
الاقتصادية بين البلدي.
من ناحيته اشار السفير الفرنسي
منذ قمع الامارات هدفه لخدمة
المعرض سيقومها بامانة هذا السوق
وقال ان اشترك هذه الشركات في
المنطقة.

النشاط الرسمي



مقر القاسمي يستقبل قائد بارجة امريكية

استقبل صاحب السمو الشيخ صقر بن محمد القاسمي عضو المجلس الاعلى
حاكم رأس الخيمة بمكتبه في المديان الاميري قبل ظهر امس بالمقدم جوزيف
كورسي قائد لبارجة امريكية فائدي جرفت التي تزور البلاد حاليا وترسو في
ميناء صقر براس الخيمة.

وحضر القابلة اللواء الشيخ سلطان بن صقر القاسمي نائب حاكم رأس
الخيمة قائد لواء بدر الثاني والشيخ سعود بن صقر القاسمي رئيس المديان
الاميري براس الخيمة ولهم ارض روو السفير الاميري لدى الدولة وديفيد بيرس
المفصل الاميري العام بدني والملحق العسكري الاميري لدى الدولة.
هذا وقد تم تبادل الاحاديث الودية والهيايا التذكارية بمناسبة زيارة البارجة
التي تستغرق ثلاثة ايام.

وقد قام صاحب السمو الشيخ صقر بن محمد القاسمي عضو المجلس الاعلى
حاكم رأس الخيمة بعد ظهر امس بزيارة القرافطة الامريكية فائدي جرفت التي
ترسو في ميناء صقر براس الخيمة.

ورافق سموه في هذه الزيارة اللواء الشيخ سلطان بن صقر القاسمي نائب
حاكم رأس الخيمة قائد لواء بدر الثاني وعدد من الشيوخ.

كان في استقبال سموه عند سلم القرافطة ولهم ارض روو السفير الاميري لدى

Khaleej Times



Sunday, January 29, 1995. 28 Shabaan, 1415

Price: U. A. Dh 2.
Qatar QR 2

Saqr visits US frigate

HIS Highness Shaikh Saqr bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, yesterday visited the US frigate, Vandergrist, which is currently berthing at the Saqr Port in the emirate.

Shaikh Saqr was accompanied by Deputy Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah and Commander of Badr II Brigade Major-General Shaikh Sultan bin Saqr Al Qasimi and a number of other Shaikhs.

They were received by US Ambassador William A. Rugh and the frigate's Commander Joseph Corsi.

Shaikh Saqr inspected the frigate's various sections and was briefed on its tasks.

Earlier, Shaikh Saqr received Commander Joseph Corsi.

The meeting was also attended by Shaikh Sultan and head of the Amiri Court Shaikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi. — Wam

Emirates News

ABU DHABI, SUNDAY, SHA'ABAN 28, 1415, JANUARY 29, 1995

Pr

LOCAL NEWS



Supreme Council member and Ruler of Ras al Khaimah His Highness Sheikh Saqr bin Mohammed al Qassimi received yesterday Commodore Joseph Corsy, Commander of a US frigate currently anchored at the Ras al Khaimah Port. Also seen is US Ambassador William A Rugh.



Official

RAK Ruler receives American Commander

RAS AL KHAIMAH (WAM): Supreme Council member and Ruler of Ras al Khaimah His Highness Sheikh Saqr bin Mohammed al Qassimi received yesterday Commodore Joseph Corsy, Commander of a US frigate currently anchored at the Ras al Khaimah Port.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Ruler of Ras al Khaimah and Commander of the Badr II Brigade Sheikh Sultan bin Saqr al Qassimi, Head of the Emiri Court Sheikh Saud bin Saqr al Qassimi, US Ambassador William Rugh, US Consul in Dubai David Pearce and other officials.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48)
FLEET POST OFFICE
AP 96682-1502

5750
FFG 48-PAO
22 Apr 96

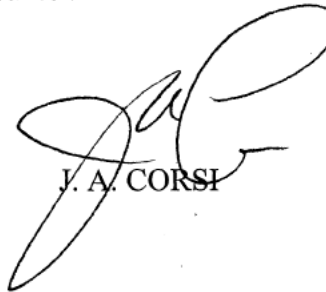
From: Commanding Officer, USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG 48)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09BH) Washington, DC 20350

Subj: 1995 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) 1995 Command History for USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG 48)

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.


J. A. CORSI

USS VANDEGRIFT 1995 COMMAND HISTORY

Part I

The mission of USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48) is "To provide self defense and effectively supplement planned and existing escorts in the protection of underway replenishment groups, amphibious forces and military and mercantile shipping against subsurface, air and surface threats; to conduct ASW operations in conjunction with other control forces tasked to ensure our use of essential sea lanes of communications; and be the best at it." From 01 January to 06 January 1995, VANDEGRIFT was commanded by CDR David C. Harrison. From 07 January to 31 December 1995, VANDEGRIFT was commanded by CDR Joseph A. Corsi. VANDEGRIFT was homeported in San Diego, CA and was under the administrative command of Commander, Destroyer Squadron Three-Three until Commander, Destroyer Squadron Thirty-Three was disestablished on 1 October of 1995 and then came under the administrative command of Commander, Destroyer Squadron Two-Three, ("The Little Beavers").

Part II

The following events occurred during 1995.

Date:	Event:
01-28 JAN	Underway(U/W) in the Northern and Central Arabian Gulf conducting Maritime Interception Operations and plane guard duty
07 JAN	Change of Command Ceremony - CDR J.A. Corsi assumes command of USS Vandegrift
20-24 JAN	Plane guard duties with the USS Constellation
28 JAN-01 FEB	Port visit Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates
28 JAN	VANDEGRIFT hosts the Emir of Ras Al Khaimah
01 FEB	U/W Central Arabian Gulf transiting to Jebel Ali
01-05 FEB	Port visit Jebel Ali
05-19 FEB	U/W in the Southern Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman conducting shallow water ASW as part of SHAREM 110
06 FEB	Commander, Naval Surface Forces U.S. Pacific Fleet Spokane Trophy Nominee
12 FEB	Strait of Hormuz transit(SOH) - Eastbound leg
18 FEB	SOH transit westbound leg
19 FEB-01 MAR	Port visit Jebel Ali/Availibilty with the USS Samuel Gompers (AD-37)
22 FEB	Winner Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award for FY-94
01-08 MAR	U/W off the coast of Dubai performing penalty box duties

08-10 MAR	Port Visit Jebel Ali
10-11 MAR	U/W en route Muscat Oman
10 Mar	SOH transit
11-13 MAR	Port visit Muscat, Oman
13 MAR	VANDEGRIFT hosts Commander United States Naval Forces Central Command (COMUSNAVCENT) Vice Admiral John Redd and the U.S. Ambassador to Oman
14-21 MAR	U/W en route Singapore
16 MAR	Outchop from the USNAVCENT AOR
21-27 MAR	Port visit Singapore
27 MAR-01 APR	U/W en route Manilla, Phillippines
27-28 MAR	ISIC's Engineering Readiness Assessment (IERA)
31 MAR	Command Assessment of Readiness and Training I (CART I)
01-04 APR	Port visit Manilla, Philippines
04-17 APR	U/W en route Pearl Harbor
17-19 APR	Port Visit Pearl Harbor
19-25 APR	U/W en route San Diego, CA/ Tiger Cruise
25 APR	Homecoming San Diego, CA
25 APR-01 JUN	Inport (IPT) San Diego, CA -Post Deployment Upkeep
28 APR	LCDR Mehki relieves as Executive Officer
27 MAY	Parade in Solana Beach with VANDEGRIFT Color Guard celebrating the "Fiesta Del Sol"
01-02 JUN	U/W Southern California (SOCAL) OPAREA
01 JUN	TACAN Cert
02-06 JUN	IPT San Diego, CA
05-09 JUN	Inspection and Survey Board(INSURV)/ IPT and U/W
06 JUN	U/W SOCAL
09-26 JUN	IPT/Upkeep(UPK) San Diego, CA
23 JUN-21 JUL	Pacific Training of Midshipman
23 JUN	CART IIA
26 JUN-01 JUL	U/W en route Kodiak, Alaska
01-06 JUL	Port visit Kodiak, Alaska
06-12 JUL	U/W en route San Diego, CA
12-31 JUL	IPT San Diego, CA
24-28 JUL	Tailored Ship Training Availability I (TSTA I), inport
31 JUL-05 AUG	U/W SOCAL TSTA I
05-07 AUG	IPT San Diego, CA
07-12 AUG	U/W SOCAL TSTA I
12-14 AUG	IPT San Diego, CA
14-18 AUG	U/W SOCAL TSTA I/completion of TSTA I
18-28 AUG	IPT UPK San Diego, CA
28 AUG-02 SEP	U/W SOCAL - Pre-OPPE preps

02-11 SEP	IPT UPK San Diego, CA
11-15 SEP	U/W SOCAL - Pre-OPPE preps
15-26 SEP	IPT UPK San Diego, CA
23 SEP	"Adopt a Beach" with city of Solana Beach, CA
26-29 SEP	U/W SOCAL - Pre-OPPE preps
29 SEP-09 OCT	IPT San Diego, CA
01 OCT	Commander, Destroyer Squadron Thirty-Three disestablished/VANDEGRIFT becomes part of Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Three
03-11 OCT	Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE)
10 OCT	U/W OPPE
11-13 OCT	U/W Seal Beach, CA for weapons off-load
13-15 OCT	IPT San Diego, CA-off-load fuel
15 OCT-15 DEC	Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) at the National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO)
15 OCT	Dead stick move to the NASSCO pier
13-14 DEC	U/W SOCAL-Sea Trials
15-31 DEC	Holiday Upkeep San Diego CA
16 DEC	Christmas Card exchange with children of Solana Beach and delivery of holiday treats to VANDEGRIFT Sailors from a Solana Beach Retirement Home.
18-22 DEC	Aviation Certification Inspection and Aviation Readiness Evaluation

Part III

01-28 JAN	When the USS Vandegrift pulled into Ras Al Khaimah on the 28th of January, she had completed thirty- eight straight days of underway operations. The longest underway period in VANDEGRIFT'S history consisted largely of conducting Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) in the Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG) in support of U.N. resolutions against IRAQ. VANDEGRIFT conducted a change of command which took place on the forecandle while VANDEGRIFT was patrolling her designated sector in the NAG. CDR J.A. Corsi assumed command on 07 January without a hitch and CDR D.C. Harrison bid VANDEGRIFT and her crew farewell as he boarded the "Desert Duck" helicopter for a short flight into Bahrain. VANDEGRIFT was very successful in the MIO role and when properly relieved by another U.S. Navy warship in the NAG, she proceeded to the Central Arabian Gulf to assume plane guard duties with the aircraft carrier USS Constellation (CV-
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28 JAN-28 FEB VANDEGRIFT fulfilled diplomatic duties as she hosted the Emir of Ras Al Khaimah (RAK), Sheik Saqr Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi for lunch and a tour onboard. After a short stay in RAK, VANDEGRIFT proceeded north up the coast to Jebel Ali to onload the necessary equipment to participate in the 110th shallow water ASW Exercise known as SHAREM. VANDEGRIFT operated with USS LAKE ERIE, USS DAVID R. RAY, the research vessel USNS SILAS BENT and the Los Angeles attack submarine USS TOPEKA. The thrust of the exercise was to study and improve tactics against submarines in shallow water in which VANDEGRIFT performed meticulously. VANDEGRIFT was able to flex all aspects of her ASW capabilities which include the SQR-19 passive acoustic towed array, the SQS-56 active hull mounted sonar and the embarked SH-60B LAMPS MK-III helicopter from HSL-47 Det 2 out of San Diego. The exercise was a huge success for all involved. VANDEGRIFT returned to Jebel Ali for an availability with the USS SAMUEL GOMPERS (AD-37).

01-16 MAR VANDEGRIFT was underway for eight days while guarding sanctions violators off the coast of Dubai in an area designated as the "penalty box." This duty consisted of ensuring the vessels did not leave that area and that their crews had sufficient food and water. The ship's Visit Board Search and Seizure team visited the vessels regularly to evaluate living conditions and to bring them supplies. VANDEGRIFT was relieved by another U.S. warship and returned to Jebel Ali for the last time to onload some of the necessary supplies to begin the journey back to San Diego. After departing Jebel Ali, VANDEGRIFT made a flawless transit of the Strait of Hormuz en route to Muscat, Oman where they made a port visit. On thirteen March, the beautiful and picturesque mountains and castles of Muscat Oman were the backdrop for a lavish reception held onboard the world's finest frigate for Vice Admiral Redd and the U.S. Ambassador to Oman, the Honorable David J. Dunford. The Officers and crew of VANDEGRIFT shown brightly as they presented their ship to the

many dignitaries on hand. Vice Admiral Redd praised VANDEGRIFT for the excellent condition of the ship and the obvious effort that went into putting on such a fine reception. 16 March marked the last day VANDEGRIFT was in the USNAVCENT AOR.

21 MAR-25 APR The humidity soared as VANDEGRIFT headed towards Singapore for a brief port visit. While in Singapore, VANDEGRIFT embarked riders from COMDESRON Three-Three to conduct an IERA while the ship transited towards the Philippines. As is the case for ships that are required to go on deployment within a year after returning from the last deployment, VANDEGRIFT had already begun her predeployment work-ups with the completion of the first part of the Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART I). The IERA went well and VANDEGRIFT pulled into Manilla, Philippines on 1 April for yet another port visit.

On 4 April, VANDEGRIFT left Manilla and began transiting towards Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. CDR Johnson the XO, left the ship in Manilla and the air detachment Officer in Charge, LCDR Brasel was the acting XO during the interim until the ship reached San Diego when LCDR Mehki assumed the duties as XO on 28 April. On 17 April, the ship arrived in Pearl Harbor, to refuel and to embark "Tigers" (family members of crew men wishing to experience shipboard life) for the ride from Pearl Harbor, HI to San Diego, CA. The Tigers were treated and involved in the routine evolutions a ship normally undergoes including; gun shoots and replenishments at sea. VANDEGRIFT roared over the horizon and out of the early morning fog to arrive pierside Naval Station San Diego, CA on the 25th of April exactly on schedule.

01-09 JUN As early as January, VANDEGRIFT had been preparing for an INSURV inspection. The actual INSURV went from 5 to 9 June and included a brief underway period to demonstrate those operational areas for the INSURV inspectors. The necessary preparations had taken place and the desired result of a very

successful INSURV was achieved.

- 23 JUN VANDEGRIFT embarked midshipman in mid June for training. The ship completed CART II on 23 June.
- 23 JUN-18 AUG Somewhat unexpectedly VANDEGRIFT was selected to make a port visit to Kodiak, Alaska to commemorate the 50th anniversary of World War II with local veterans. VANDEGRIFT rose to the occasion and hosted the people of Kodiak to tours onboard for the five days of the port visit. The trip to Kodiak included a week of transiting each way.
- VANDEGRIFT returned from Alaska to resume her predeployment workups, this time in the first part of the Tailored Ship Training Availability (TSTA I). The rigors of TSTA I included one week inport and three weeks of underway demonstrating proficiency in all required areas of engineering, operations, and combat systems. TSTA I was completed successfully with high marks from the Afloat Training Group inspectors.
- 03-11 OCT VANDEGRIFT spent most of the month of September preparing for the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE). The OPPE was originally scheduled from 03-05 October but VANDEGRIFT experienced problems with the Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) system. Because of the immaculate material condition of the engineering spaces, the senior OPPE inspector decided to give VANDEGRIFT time to correct the problem with UPS and complete the examination on the 11th of October. After satisfying the rigorous requirements of the OPPE, VANDEGRIFT completed the exam with an overall grade of satisfactory.
- 11 OCT-15 OCT In preparation for entering the yards on October 15th, VANDEGRIFT had to conduct an offload of all her weapons at the Seal Beach, CA Naval weapons station. VANDEGRIFT returned to San Diego to offload fuel and be moved to the NASSCO pier for the two month Selected Restricted Availability

(SRA) .

15 OCT-15 DEC SRA

13-15 DEC VANDEGRIFT put to sea in order to verify the proper operation of the ship after two months in the yards. The ship performed satisfactorily and returned to Naval Station San Diego.

18-22 DEC VANDEGRIFT proved she was capable of safely conducting flight operations with the successful completion of the Aviation Readiness Evaluation and the Aviation Certification Inspection.

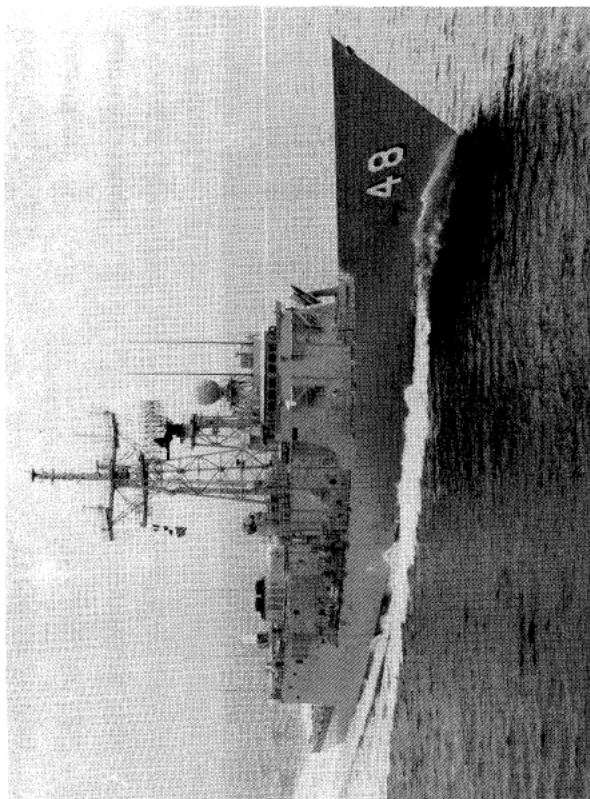
22 DEC VANDEGRIFT began her holiday standown.

Part IV

The following items are included as part of VANDEGRIFT's Command History 1995.

- (1) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
- (2) Commanding Officer Photograph
- (3) Ship Photograph
- (4) News Articles
- (5) Amplifying Message Traffic

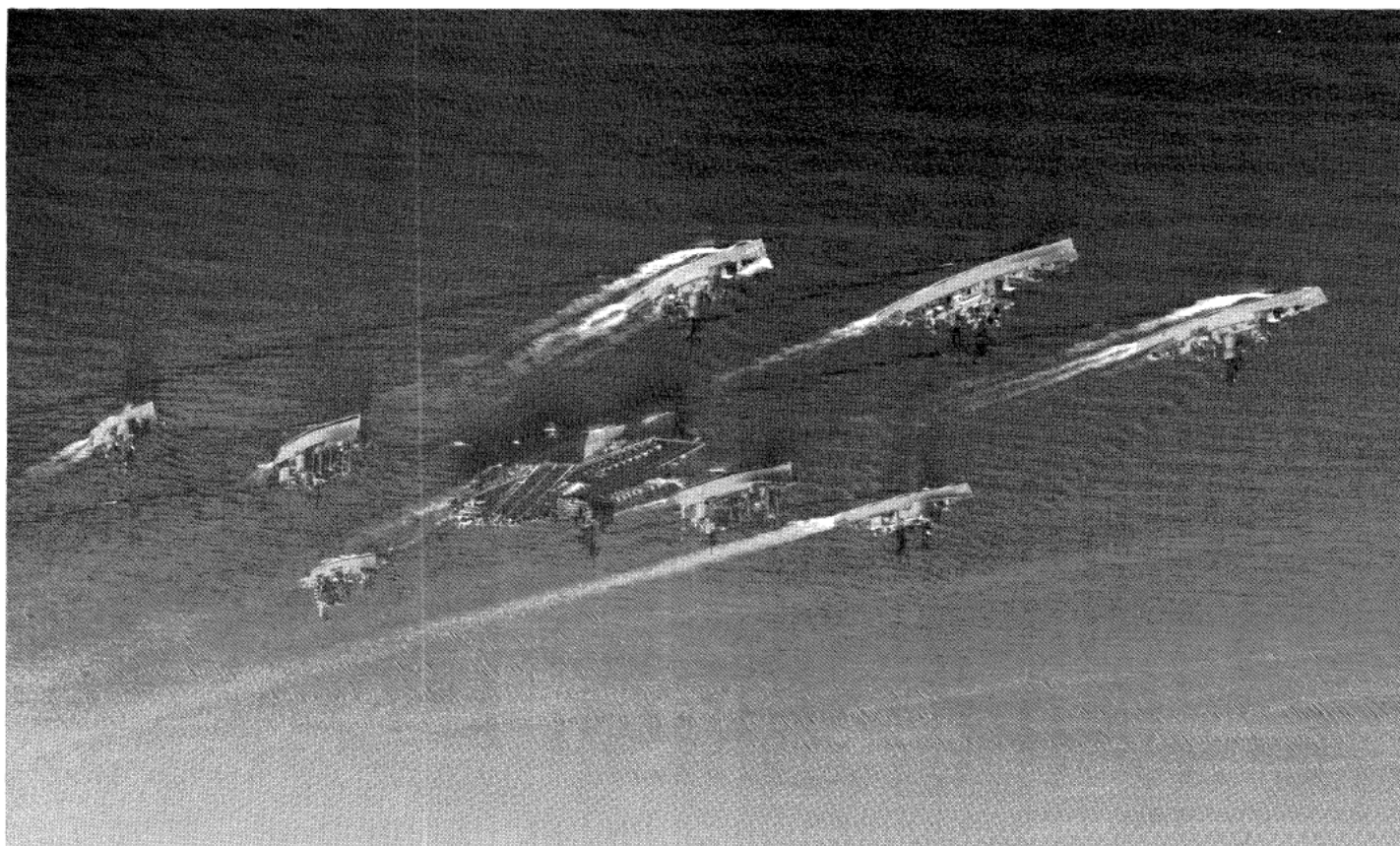
WELCOME ABOARD



USS VANDEGRIFT
(FFG-48)



“VANDEGRIFT STEAMING IN FORMATION WITH KITTY HAWK BATTLE GROUP”



USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48)

The officers and crew in USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48) extend to you our greetings and welcome you aboard the finest guided missile frigate in the world.

Keel Laid	13 October 1981
Launched	15 October 1982
Commissioned	24 November 1984

USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48) is the forty-second ship of the FFG-7 (Oliver Hazard Perry) class. She was built by Todd Pacific Shipyards Corporation, Seattle, Washington. VANDEGRIFT's mission is to escort and protect convoys, underway replenishment groups, amphibious landing groups and carrier battle groups. VANDEGRIFT's missile, gun and anti-submarine warfare systems, combined with her quick reaction and high-speed capability, make her a valuable asset in today's multi-threat environment.

Displacement:	4100 tons
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Dimensions:	Length 453 ft. Beam 45 ft. Draft 25 ft.
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Complement:	15 Officers, 186 Enlisted
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Propulsion:	Two LM-2500 gas turbine engines producing 40,000 hp; one shaft with controllable pitch propeller
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Armament:	Mark 13 Anti-Aircraft Missile Launcher Mark 75 76mm Gun Mark 46 Anti-Submarine Torpedoes Two SH-60B "Seahawk" Helicopters Mark 15 Anti-Missile, Rapid-Fire 20mm Gun Close-In Weapons System
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Combat Systems:	AN/SQS-56 Digital Sonar Mk92 Mod 6 Fire Control System AN/SPS-55 Surface Search Radar AN/SPS-49 Air Search Radar Tactical Towed Array Sonar SLQ-32 (V)5 Electronic Warfare System Passive Radar Countermeasures System
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**GENERAL
ALEXANDER A.
VANDEGRIFT
USMC**



Alexander A. Vandegrift was born on March 13, 1887, in Charlottesville, Virginia. Attending the University of Virginia, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1909. In 1912, Vandegrift participated in the capture of Coyotepe, Nicaragua, and two years later in the occupation of Veracruz, Mexico. He also served aboard the USS MINNESOTA, USS VIRGINIA, USS DELAWARE and USS CHESTER until ordered to Haiti in 1915 for action against the Cacos Bandits. For service in Haiti, where he continued to serve in various capacities until 1923, the President of the Republic of Haiti awarded him their Distinguished Service Medal and the Haitian Medaille Militaire with one Silver Star. The following 18 years were spent in various posts and stations in the United States, with the exception of two tours in China.

In 1942 Vandegrift sailed to the South Pacific as Commanding General of the 1st Marine Division and led his men in the initial landing of the U.S. Forces against the Japanese at Guadalcanal. For his actions, he was awarded the Navy Cross and the Medal of Honor.

With the successful conclusion of the Solomon Islands campaign, Vandegrift assumed command of the 1st Marine Amphibious Corps in July, 1943 and directed the initial landing at Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville.

On January 1, 1945, Vandegrift was appointed to the rank of General, the first active duty Marine officer to reach four star rank. He then served as Commandant of the Marine Corps, and in this position guided the Corps' post-war reorganization and demobilization.

General Vandegrift retired from active duty in April 1949.

**COMMANDER
JOSEPH A. CORSI
UNITED STATES NAVY**

Commander Joseph A. Corsi, a native of (b) (6), graduated from Purdue University in 1975 and received his commission in June 1976 after completion of Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island.

He was assigned temporarily to the staff of Commander Naval Air Force U.S. Pacific Fleet for three months prior to attending Surface Warfare Officers School (Basic) in San Diego, California. From March 1977 until May 1980, Commander Corsi served as Forward Propulsion Group Division Officer and Electrical Officer in USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63).

Commander Corsi then completed a two year assignment as Foreign Student Training Officer at Service School Command, San Diego. After graduation from Surface Warfare Officers School (Department Head), Commander Corsi served as Chief Engineer in both USS RAMSEY (FFG 2) from August 1983 to March 1985, and in USS WILLIAM H. STANDLEY (CG 32) from April 1985 to November 1986.

Following his department head tours, Commander Corsi reported to Washington, D. C. and was assigned as Assistant Operations and Maintenance Officer, Surface Ship Propulsion Improvement Program, Naval Sea Systems Command from December 1986 to January 1989.

Returning to sea duty, he served as Executive Officer in USS ROBISON (DDG 12) from April 1989 to October 1990, and as Chief Staff Officer in the staff of Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-THREE from October 1990 to October 1992. Just prior to reporting to USS VANDEGRIFT, he served as Joint Plans and Exercises Officer in the staff of Commander THIRD Fleet.

Commander Corsi's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy Achievement Medal and various service and campaign awards.

Commander Corsi is married to the former (b) (6) of (b) (6).



HISTORY OF THE VANDEGRIFT

USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48), named for General Alexander A. Vandegrift, United States Marine Corps, was built at Todd Pacific Shipyard in Seattle, Washington and was commissioned on November 24, 1984. The ship's inaugural cruise began on January 5, 1987. During the course of this around-the-world cruise, she sailed three oceans, seven seas and visited four continents. The plankowners also crossed the international date line, equator, Greenwich meridian, and sailed through the straits of Gibraltar, and the Suez and Panama Canals. VANDEGRIFT conducted operations with USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63) in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. These operations were highlighted by an air and sea power demonstration for the President of Pakistan. Port visits included Pearl Harbor; Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines; Karachi, Pakistan; Mombasa, Kenya; Maxime, France; Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; St. Croix and St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. VANDEGRIFT returned to Long Beach in June, 1987.

The ship's second deployment began in June, 1988, returning her to operations in the Arabian Gulf shortly after the cease fire between Iran and Iraq. VANDEGRIFT's mission while on patrol in the northern Arabian Gulf focused on providing protection and logistic support for joint forces in the area. VANDEGRIFT also participated in numerous Earnest Will missions, escorting U.S. and reflagged Kuwaiti tankers. Port visits included Pearl Harbor; Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines; Bahrain; Pattaya Beach, Thailand and Hong Kong. VANDEGRIFT returned home in December, 1988.

The ship's third deployment, which began in March, 1990, once again returned her to the Arabian Gulf. While serving in the Middle East Force, VANDEGRIFT patrolled the northern Arabian Gulf and conducted Earnest Will escort missions. As the senior ship on station in the Arabian Gulf during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, VANDEGRIFT served as the Anti-Air Warfare Commander and Electronic Warfare Coordinator until relieved by a cruiser. VANDEGRIFT participated in Operation Desert Shield's Maritime Interception Operations with units from the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and France. Ports of call included Pearl Harbor; Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines; Phuket, Thailand; Singapore and Hong Kong. VANDEGRIFT returned home to Long Beach after the extended deployment in October, 1990.

In April 1992, VANDEGRIFT began her fourth deployment to the Arabian Gulf. Aside from the normal patrolling duties, she participated in exercises with the navies of India, Qatar, and Pakistan, helping to increase U.S. relations in that area. She returned to Long Beach in October, 1992.

Since leaving the shipyard in November, 1993, VANDEGRIFT has completed a highly successful Fleet Exercise; been recognized with the COMNAVSURFPAC Food Service Award; achieved three successful missile firings; and completed a highly successful Operational Engineering Exam (OPPE). VANDEGRIFT's homeport is San Diego, CA.

The ship's decorations include the Meritorious Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and three Sea Service Ribbons.



Emirates News

59

ABU DHABI, SUNDAY, SHA'ABAN 28, 1415, JANUARY 29, 1995

Pri

LOCAL NEWS



Supreme Council member and Ruler of Ras al Khaimah His Highness Sheikh Saqr bin Mohammed al Qassimi received yesterday Commodore Joseph Corsy, Commander of a US frigate currently anchored at the Ras al Khaimah Port. Also seen is US Ambassador William A Rugh.



RAK Ruler receives American Commander

RAS AL KHAIMAH (WAM): Supreme Council member and Ruler of Ras al Khaimah His Highness Sheikh Saqr bin Mohammed al Qassimi received yesterday Commodore Joseph Corsy, Commander of a US frigate currently anchored at the Ras al Khaimah Port.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Ruler of Ras al Khaimah and Commander of the Badr II Brigade Sheikh Sultan bin Saqr al Qassimi, Head of the Emiri Court Sheikh Saud bin Saqr al Qassimi, Ambassador William Rugh, US Consul in Dubai David Pearce and other officials.

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U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
112300Z OCT 95
LOAA00001

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ZNR UUUUU

R 112300Z OCT 95

FM PACFLT PEB SAN DIEGO CA//CDET//

TO COMNAVSRFPAC SAN DIEGO CA//N01/N3/N3A/N311/N43/N434
/N8/N82/N824//

INFO CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N01/N00010/N43//

COMNAVSEASYS COM WASHINGTON DC//03D//

NAVSURFPAC READSUPPGRU SAN DIEGO CA//00//

COMTHIRDFLT

PACFLT PEB SAN DIEGO CA//N01PEB1//

LANTFLT PEB NORFOLK VA//N020//

RSO SAN DIEGO CA

COMDESRON TWO THREE

SUPSHIP SAN DIEGO CA

USS VANDEGRIFT \$\$\$

BT

UNCLAS //N03540//

MSGID/GENADMIN/PACFLT PEB SAN DIEGO CA//

SUBJ/OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAM (OPPE) IN USS

VANDEGRIFT (FFG 48)//

REF/A/DOC/OPNAVINST/28APR92//

REF/B/DOC/CPFINST/13AUG91//

REF/C/RMG/PACFLT PEB/050001Z OCT 95//

NARR/REF A IS OPNAVINST 3540.4H, REF B IS CINCPACFLTINST
3540.3A, REF C IS REPORT OF INCOMPLETE OPPE, //

RMKS/

1. AN OPPE WAS COMPLETED IN USS VANDEGRIFT ON 10-11 OCT 95 IAW
REFS A AND B. A FINDING OF SATISFACTORY WITH AN ADJECTIVE GRADE OF
SATISFACTORY WAS ASSIGNED.

2. EXAM AREAS WERE EVALUATED AS FOLLOWS:

A. MATERIAL - SATISFACTORY.

B. FIREFIGHTING - SATISFACTORY.

C. MANAGEMENT - SATISFACTORY (AS REPORTED REF C).

D. TRAINING - SATISFACTORY.

E. OPERATIONS - SATISFACTORY.

3. SENIOR EXAMINER'S COMMENTS: THE SHIP REPORTED TWO PIECES OF
EQUIPMENT OUT OF COMMISSION AND ZERO EQUIPMENT DEGRADATIONS DURING
THE EXAM. THE BOARD IDENTIFIED TWO ADDITIONAL PIECES OF
EQUIPMENT OUT OF COMMISSION AND THREE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT
DEGRADATIONS. CLEANLINESS, PRESERVATION AND STOWAGE WERE AS
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN REF C. A HIGH POWER DEMONSTRATION WAS
OBSERVED AND WAS EVALUATED SATISFACTORY. THE SHIP HAD TWO
QUALIFIED WATCH SECTIONS. IN THE FIRST SECTION, 67 PERCENT OF
EVOLUTIONS AND 67 PERCENT OF DRILLS WERE EVALUATED AS SATISFACTORY
OR BETTER. IN THE SECOND SECTION, 67 PERCENT OF EVOLUTIONS AND 50
PERCENT OF DRILLS WERE EVALUATED AS SATISFACTORY OR BETTER. THE

CB AD 129 130 ENG SUP RMC CICO CIC COMMO CDD
ADM MED 1LT AIR CMS CSC GMP AIG SM1 RM2

CHOP *DNS* COPY-----

U N C L A S S I F I E D

PAGE 1

ROUTINE
112300Z OCT 95

U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
112300Z OCT 95

ECCTT WAS EVALUATED AS SATISFACTORY BUT DEGRADED DUE TO DEFICIENCIES IN DRILL IMPOSITIONS AND SYSTEM KNOWLEDGE. THE MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL WAS EVALUATED AS SATISFACTORY. THE DCTT WAS EVALUATED AS SATISFACTORY BUT DEGRADED DUE TO DEFICIENCIES IN DRILL IMPOSITIONS, WATCHSTANDER CONTROL AND EVALUATION THOROUGHNESS. MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS WERE EVALUATED AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN REF C.

4. THE SHIP WAS EXAMINED AT NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO AND IN THE SOCAL OPAREA.

5. THE EXAMINATION REPORT AND DETAILED LISTING OF EACH DEFICIENCY FOUND DURING THE EXAM WAS PROVIDED TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER AND THE ISIC.//

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U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
112300Z OCT 95

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U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
071940Z JAN 95
LOA000014

TTUZYUW RHPBAAV1505 0071940-0000-RUHGSUU,
NR 00000

071940Z JAN 95

FM USS VANDEGRIFT

TO COMUSNAVCENT//012//

INFO CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N01P//

COMNAVSURFPAC SAN DIEGO CA//N01P//

COMNAVBASE SAN DIEGO CA//N5//

AVSTA SAN DIEGO CA//N01P//

INFO WASHINGTON DC//00/02//

AVMEDIACEN WASHINGTON DC//00/NNS//

HTNC NORFOLK VA//00//

COMDESRON THREE THREE

TF ONE FIVE ONE

AVINFO EAST NEW YORK//JJJ//

BT

NCLAS //N05720//

SGID/GENADMIN/VANDEGRIFT//

SUBJ/PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE FOR CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY//

OC/MOLINARI/ENS/PHN: INMARSAT 011-873-153-4351//

PKS/1. FOL PRESREL IS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL AND IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

QUOTE: VANDEGRIFT HOLDS CHANGE OF COMMAND ON PATROL IN THE NORTH
ARABIAN GULF

BY ENS JOHN J. MOLINARI

USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48)

CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONIES WERE HELD ONBOARD USS VANDEGRIFT
FFG 48) JANUARY 07, 1995 WHEN COMMANDER JOSEPH A. CORSI RELIEVED
COMMANDER DAVID C. HARRISON. THE CEREMONY WAS HELD ONBOARD WHILE
VANDEGRIFT WAS PATROLLING THE NORTH ARABIAN GULF.

COMMANDER CORSI WAS PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED AS JOINT PLANS AND
EXERCISES OFFICER ON THE STAFF OF COMMANDER THIRD FLEET.

COMMANDER CORSI HAS SERVED ONBOARD USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63),
USS RAMSEY (FFG 2), USS WILLIAM H. STANDLEY (CG 32) AND USS ROBISON
DDG 12). HIS AWARDS INCLUDE THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
(THREE AWARDS), NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL (THREE AWARDS), NAVY
ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL AND NUMEROUS CAMPAIGN MEDALS AND RIBBONS.

COMMANDER CORSI IS A NATIVE OF (b) (6)

COMMANDER HARRISON HAS ORDERS TO THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF NAVAL
OPERATIONS FOR PLANS AND POLICY IN WASHINGTON D.C.

QUOTE.

BTTC HOLD FILE VALID.//

BT

1545

NNN

PAO FILE

CSO ENG SUP CMC CICO CIC ADM MED NAV DISB
DROD ERO LPO OCA AIR CSC SMI GME AIG SHOTGUN CHOP

COPY

U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
071940Z JAN 95

AGE 1

ROUTINE

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PR1 00466 SMN001848 B
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U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
091725Z JAN 95
LOAA00013

RTTUZYUW RHPBAAV1533 0091725-0000--RUHGSUU,

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FM USS VANDEGRIFT

TO COMUSNAVCENT//012//

INFO CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N01PA//

CTF ONE FIVE ONE

COMNAVSURFPAC SAN DIEGO CA//N01PA//

COMNAVBASE SAN DIEGO CA//NS//

NAVMEDIACEN WASHINGTON DC//32//

CHINFO WASHINGTON DC//00/NNS//

NAVSTA SAN DIEGO CA//N01P//

FMTC NORFOLK VA//00//

COMDESRON THREE THREE

NAVINFO WEST LOS ANGELES CA//JJJ//

NAVINFO MIDWEST CHICAGO IL//JJJ//

NAVINFO SOUTHWEST DALLAS TX//JJJ//

NAVINFO SOUTHEAST ATLANTA GA//JJJ//

NAVINFO EAST NEW YORK NY//JJJ//

NAVINFO NEWENG BOSTON MA//JJJ//

BT

UNCLAS //N05720//

MSGID/GENADMIN/VANDEGRIFT//

SUBJ/PRESS RELEASE//

POC/GARCIA/LTJG/PRIPHN;DSN 439-4831/-/-/-/-//

RMKS/1. FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL AND IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

QUOTE:

USS VANDEGRIFT MERITORIOUSLY ADVANCES THREE EXCEPTIONAL SAILORS

BY LTJG MARK R. GARCIA

THREE WELL DESERVING INDIVIDUALS WERE MERITORIOUSLY ADVANCED ONE PAY GRADE BY USS VANDEGRIFT'S COMMANDING OFFICER, CDR DAVID HARRISON, ON 7 JAN 95. TWO OF THE INDIVIDUALS ADVANCED WERE ENGINEERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN VANDEGRIFT'S HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAMINATION. THE THIRD INDIVIDUAL WAS A KEY PLAYER IN VANDEGRIFT'S HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL COMBAT SYSTEMS SHIP QUALIFICATION TRIALS (CSSQT). ALL THREE HAD WORKED EXCEPTIONALLY HARD DURING VANDEGRIFT'S CURRENT DEPLOYMENT TO THE ARABIAN GULF. THE INDIVIDUALS ADVANCED WERE:

FC1 (b) (6) 30, (b) (6)

EN2 (b) (6) 26, (b) (6)

EN2 (b) (6) 24, (b) (6)

FOUR OTHER INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDALS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING VANDEGRIFT'S PREDEPLOYMENT WORK-UPS AND TRANSIT TO THE ARABIAN GULF.

AWARDED THE NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL WERE:

EN2 (b) (6) 29, (b) (6)

OPS ENG SUP CICO CIC ADM MED NAV DISB
1LT ORDO ERO LPO DCA SMI AIR CSC GMF AIG CMS SHOTGUN CHOP COPY-

U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
091725Z JAN 95

U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
091725Z JAN 95

MA1 (b) (6) 34 (b) (6)
SH2 (b) (6) 30 (b) (6)
LT (b) (6) 34 (b) (6)

THE CEREMONY TOOK PLACE WHILE VANDEGRIFT WAS UNDERWAY CONDUCTING
MARITIME INTERCEPT OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF UNITED NATIONS SECURITY
COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AGAINST IRAQ IN THE NORTH ARABIAN GULF. USS
VANDEGRIFT IS CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE U.S. NAVAL FORCES CENTRAL
COMMAND AND WILL BE DEPLOYED TO THE ARABIAN GULF UNTIL THE SPRING OF
1995.

UNQUOTE

2. FHTNC HOLD FILE VALID, //

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U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
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U N C L A S S I F I E D

PRIORITY
251805Z JAN 95
LOAA00027

PTTUZYUW RHPBAAV1868 0251805-UUUU--RUHGSUU.

ZNR UUUUU

P 251805Z JAN 95 ZYB

FM USS VANDEGRIFT

TO COMUSNAVCENT//012//

INFO CTF ONE FIVE NINE

COMDESRON SEVEN

CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N01//

COMNAVSURFPAC SAN DIEGO CA//N01//

COMDESRON THREE THREE

COMNAVBASE SAN DIEGO CA//N5//

NAVMEIACEN WASHINGTON DC//32//

CHINFO WASHINGTON DC//00/NNS//

NAVSTA SAN DIEGO CA//N01//

FHTNC NORFOLK VA//00//

NAVINFO WEST LOS ANGELES CA//JJJ//

NAVINFO MIDWEST CHICAGO IL//JJJ//

NAVINFO SOUTHWEST DALLAS TX//JJJ//

NAVINFO SOUTHEAST ATLANTA GA//JJJ//

BT

UNCLAS //N05720//

MSGID/GENADMIN/VANDEGRIFT//

SUBJ/PRESS RELEASE//

POC/JOHNSON/CDR/XO/INMARSAT 873-153-4351//

RMKS/1. FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL AND

IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

QUOTE:

USS VANDEGRIFT CELEBRATES HALF-WAY NIGHT
BY LTJG HAROLD A. PAYNE

ON 25 JANUARY 1995, USS VANDEGRIFT'S CREW CELEBRATED THE MID-POINT OF THEIR SIX MONTH DEPLOYMENT TO THE ARABIAN GULF. ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS IMPORTANT DAY INCLUDED A COMMANDING OFFICER'S MERITORIOUS MAST. MERITORIOUS MAST PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER TO PUBLICLY COMMEND INDIVIDUALS FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES. VANDEGRIFT'S COMMANDING OFFICER, CDR JOE CORSI, CONDUCTED THE MERITORIOUS MAST FOR RM3 (b) (6), 22, OF (b) (6) AND RM3 (b) (6), 22, OF (b) (6). THE CEREMONY TOOK PLACE WHILE VANDEGRIFT WAS ESCORTING TWO SHIPS SUSPECTED OF VIOLATING UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAQ. THE TWO SHIPS WERE INTERCEPTED BY US NAVAL FORCES AND ARE BEING DIVERTED TO A PORT IN THE NORTH ARABIAN GULF.

ON THE PREVIOUS DAY, HAVING JUST COMPLETED ONE FULL MONTH AT SEA, VANDEGRIFT'S ORDNANCE OFFICER, LT (b) (6), 25, OF (b) (6), REENLISTED GM62 (b) (6), 27, OF (b) (6).

CDR XO OPS CSO ENG SUP COM RMC CICO CIC ADM MED DISB 1LT
ORDO ERO RM2 DCA SMI AIR CSC GMF AIG CMS SHOTGUN CHOP COPY

U N C L A S S I F I E D

PRIORITY
251805Z JAN 95

U N C L A S S I F I E D

PRIORITY

251805Z JAN 95

PETTY OFFICER (b) (6) RETURNED FROM SECURITY TEAM DUTIES ABOARD
ONE OF THE SANCTIONS VIOLATORS TO REENLIST ATOP VANDEGRIFT'S 76MM
GUN MOUNT.

USS VANDEGRIFT IS CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE U.S. NAVAL
FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND. VANDEGRIFT'S MISSIONS IN THE NORTH
ARABIAN GULF INCLUDE CONDUCTING MARITIME INTERCEPT OPERATIONS IN
SUPPORT OF UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AGAINST
IRAQ. USS VANDEGRIFT AND HER LAMPS MARK III HELICOPTER
DETACHMENT FROM HSL 47 WILL BE DEPLOYED TO THE ARABIAN GULF UNTIL
THE SPRING OF 1995.

UNQUOTE

2. FHTNC HOLD FILE VALID.//

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2 U N C L A S S I F I E D

PRIORITY

251805Z JAN 95

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ROUTINE
201540Z FEB 95
LOAA00019

ZNR 000000

FM USS VANDEGRIFT

INFO CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR 01//N01PA//

COMNAV SURFPAC SAN DIEGO CA//N01PA//

NAVMEDIACEN WASHINGTON DC//32//

NAVSTA SAN DIEGO CA//NOIP//

COMDEFSON THREE THREE

NAVINFO MIDWEST CHICAGO IL//JJJ//

UNCLAS //NF5720//

- SGID/GEMADNIN/VANDEGRIFT//

SUBJ/PRESS RELEASE//

PMK5/1. FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL AND IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

NOTE:

USS VANDEGRIFT VISITS U.A.E. PORTS
BY LTJG MARK R. GARCIA

ON 28 JANUARY 1995, AFTER 38 DAYS AT SEA, USS VANDEGRIFT MOORED AT MINA SAQR, THE MAIN PORT OF RAS AL KHAIMAH, ONE OF THE SEVEN UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. THAT AFTERNOON, VANDEGRIFT WAS HONORED TO HOST THE RULER OF RAS AL KHAIMAH, SHEIKH SAQR BIN MOHAMID AL QASIMI, FOR LUNCH ABOARD THE WORLD'S FINEST FRIGATE. DURING THEIR 3 DAY PORT VISIT, VANDEGRIFT'S CREW ENJOYED THE BEAUTIFUL BEACHES, SHOPPING FOR GOOD DEALS AT THE LOCAL SUQ (MARKET PLACE) AND WATCHING THE SUPER BOUL AT A LOCAL RESORT. PN1 (b) (6) OF (b) (6) REMARKED "THE BEACHES IN RAS AL KHAIMAH WERE A FANTASTIC PLACE TO RELAX."

VANDEGRIFT LEFT RAS AL KHAIMAH ON 31 JANUARY FOR A DAY-LONG TRANSIT TO JEBAL ALI FOR ANOTHER PORT VISIT. VANDEGRIFT JOINED SEVERAL OTHER U.S. NAVY WARSHIPS VISITING JEBEL ALI AND ENJOYING THE CITY OF DUBAI WHERE THE AMENITIES OF A MODERN CITY ARE COMBINED WITH THE CULTURAL RICHNESS OF THE ANCIENT MIDDLE EAST. 28 CREWMEN ENJOYED LOCAL HOSPITALITY BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE USO'S HOST-A-SAILOR PROGRAM. ONE OF THEM, QM2 (b) (6) OF (b) (6) (b) (6) SAID "THE HOST A SAILOR PROGRAM WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MEET PEOPLE FROM THE AREA AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT DUBAI."

0 ~~XXX~~ ~~CSN~~ CSN ENG SUP ~~COM~~ ~~EMC~~ CICO CIC ADM MED DISB
 1LT GRD ENG RM2 SMI AIR CSC GME AIG CMS

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ROUTINE

U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
201540Z FEB 95

THE DUBAI IMPORT PERIOD ALSO ALLOWED TIME FOR INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR VANDEGRIFT'S PARTICIPATION IN HER NEXT MISSION, AN ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE (ASW) EXERCISE CALLED SHAREM 110. DURING SHAREM, VANDEGRIFT SPENT TWO WEEKS UNDERWAY PRACTICING ASW WITH USS DAVID R. RAY, USS LAKE ERIE, USS TOPEKA AND THE RESEARCH VESSEL SILAS BENT. THIS IMPORTANT EXERCISE INCLUDED ASW IN BOTH THE ARABIAN GULF AND THE GULF OF OMAN. EACH SHIP USED VARIOUS ASW ASSETS AT THEIR DISPOSAL, WHICH IN VANDEGRIFT'S CASE, INCLUDED THE USE OF HER SQR-19 PASSIVE ACOUSTIC TOWED ARRAY, SQS-56 HULL MOUNTED ACTIVE SONAR AND VANDEGRIFT'S SH-60B LAMPS MK-III HELICOPTER EMBARKED FROM EIGHT ANTI-SUBMARINE HELICOPTER SQUADRON 47 IN SAN DIEGO. SHAREM 110 WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN ALL RESPECTS AND PROVIDED AN EXCELLENT TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR VANDEGRIFT'S CREW. UPON COMPLETION OF SHAREM 110, VANDEGRIFT RETURNED TO JEBEL ALI FOR A MAINTENANCE PERIOD WITH THE FORWARD DEPLOYED DESTROYER TENDER USS SAMUEL M. GOMPERS.

NEARING THE END OF HER ARABIAN GULF DEPLOYMENT, VANDEGRIFT WILL SPEND THE NEXT 24 WEEKS OPERATING IN THE ARABIAN GULF UNDER THE COMMAND OF U.S. NAVAL FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND AND THEN HEAD HOME TO SAN DIEGO, CA.

UNQUOTE

2. PHINC HOLD FILE VALID.//

BT

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U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE

ASWC 13
END 150
ORDO 1000

- POSSIBLE MISSET -
PR1 00438 SMN004371 F
TOR 272049Z TOP 272049Z
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U N C L A S S I F I E D

PRIORITY
271302Z FEB 95
LIAA00198

PTTUZYUW RUHGSGG7847 0581540-UUUU-RHPBAAV.
ZAP UUUUU

P 271302Z FEB 95 ZYB PSN 734922G23
FM COMDESRON FIVE ZERO
TO RHPBAAV/USS VANDEGRIFT
INFO RUFTNAB/COMUSNAVCEANT//00/01/N3//
RURPZAF/COMCRUDESGRU ONE
RURPNUL/COMDESRON SEVEN

BT

UNCLAS //NO3120//

EXER/SHAREM 110//

MSGID/GENADMIN/CDS-54//

SURJ/SHAREM 110 PERFORMANCE//

RMKS/1. THE "TOP-NOTCH" PERFORMANCE OF USS VANDEGRIFT DURING THE
RECENT SHAREM 110 WAS INSTRUMENTAL TO THE SUCCESSFUL EXECUTION OF THE
EXERCISE. PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY WAS YOUR SAFE AND PROFESSIONAL
SHALLOW WATER TAIL OPERATIONS DURING THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ TRANSIT.
YOU HAVE SET THE STANDARD FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS IN THAT CRITICAL
CHOKEPOINT.

2. SINCE ARRIVING IN THE ARABIAN GULF THE OFFICERS AND CREW OF
VANDEGRIFT HAVE DEMONSTRATED A TOTAL COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE DURING
EVERY ENDEAVOR. YOUR SUPERB PERFORMANCE DURING SHAREM 110 WAS YET

PAGE 02 RUHGSGG7847 UNCLAS

ANOTHER REFLECTION OF THAT COMMITMENT.

3. WELL DONE.//

BT

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20 40 OPS ESO END SUP COM RMC CICA CIC ADM MED DISB 1LT
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CHOP-COPY

U N C L A S S I F I E D

PAGE 1

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" PERSONAL FOR "

ROUTINE
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R 070943Z MAR 95 ZYR PSN 775604G37
FM COMSUFWARDEVGRU LITTLE CREEK VA //NO//
TO RHPBAAV/USS VANDEGRIFT
INFO RUHPZAE/COMCRUDESGRU ONE//00//
RUFTNAT/COMDESRON FIVE ZERO//00//
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UNCLAS PERSONAL FOR COM CORSI INFO RADM BOROY AND COMMODORE STONE
FROM CAPT (b)(6) //NO0000//

MSGID/GENADMIN/COMSUFWARDEVGRU/00/MAR//
SUBJ/SHAREM 110 SUPPORT//

RMKS/1. JOE. WITH SHAREM 110 COMPLETED, I WANTED TO PASS ON MY
SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING THE EXERCISE. SHAREM 110
WAS ONE OF THE MOST COMPLEX AND CHALLENGING EXERCISES CONDUCTED BY
THE SURFACE WARFARE DEVELOPMENT GROUP TO DATE. THE HARD WORK OF
YOUR OFFICERS AND CREWMEMBERS MADE IT A SUCCESS. IN PARTICULAR, LT
(b)(6) SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR HIS ASSISTANCE IN THE DATA
COLLECTION EFFORT.

2. IT WILL TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS TO RECONSTRUCT ALL THE TRACKS OF THE
PARTICIPANTS AND DEVELOP A DETAILED AND ACCURATE PICTURE OF WHAT
WORKED TACTICALLY IN THE FREEPLAY EVENTS. I ANTICIPATE THAT OUR
PAGE 02 RUCBSGG5211 UNCLAS

RATHER LENGTHY QUICKLOOK MESSAGE, WHICH WILL REPORT ON THE RESULTS
OF THE EXERCISE, WILL BE ON THE STREET BY THE END OF APRIL.

3. AGAIN, THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT. IT IS HOPED THAT BY YOUR
EFFORTS, SHIPS WHICH DEPLOY TO THE ARABIAN GULF WILL BE BETTER
EQUIPPED WITH THE RIGHT TACTICS TO DO THEIR MISSION. I HOPE THAT
THE REMAINDER OF YOUR DEPLOYMENT IS SUCCESSFUL AND THAT YOU HAVE A
SAFE RETURN HOME.

4. WARM REGARDS. (b)(6) //

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(b)(6)

LT

P.I.E.

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FM USS VANDEGRIFT

TO USS GARY

BT

UNCLAS //N01700//

MSGID/GENADMIN/VANDEGRIFT//

SUBJ/ VANDEGRIFT FAMILYGRAM//

RMKS/1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING FAMILYGRAM TO VAN'S OMBUDSMAN

(b) (6) (b) (6) FOR PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION. PLEASE
PASS THIS MESSAGE ON DISC TO SUSAN SO NO RETYPING WILL BE REQD. WE
WILL ALSO SEND BY SALTS IN CASE YOU DON'T HAVE GATEGUARD:

QUOTE:

FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

DEAR FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF VANDEGRIFT,

GREETINGS FROM THE GULF OF OMAN. AS I WRITE THIS, I AM
RELAXING ON THE BRIDGE WING ON A GORGEOUS DAY JUST OFF THE COAST
OF MUSCAT, OMAN AS WE AWAIT CLEARANCE TO PROCEED INTO PORT.

AFTER AN EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL THREE MONTHS OPERATING IN THE
ARABIAN GULF, WE ARE FINALLY ON THE DOWNHILL SIDE OF THE
DEPLOYMENT AND HAVE BEGUN OUR LONG JOURNEY HOME.

ALL OF YOUR LOVED ONES, TO A MAN, HAVE GIVEN THEIR BEST
EFFORT IN COMPLETING OUR VITAL MISSION IN THE GULF AND YOU HAVE
EVERY REASON TO BE PROUD OF THEM. VANDEGRIFT HAS BEEN A KEY
PLAYER IN THE CONTINUING ENFORCEMENT OF U.N. SANCTIONS AGAINST
IRAQ AND IN HELPING DEVELOP ANTI-SUBMARINE TACTICS THAT SHIPS OF
THE FUTURE WILL USE IN THIS VOLATILE PART OF THE WORLD. WE DID
IT ALL AND DID IT RIGHT - AND ABOVE ALL WE DID IT SAFELY.

AS WE TRANSIT EAST IT WILL BE HARD TO KEEP OUR MINDS ON OUR
JOB AS THOUGHTS OF YOU AND THE APRIL 25TH REUNION BECOME
STRONGER. I CANNOT EXPRESS ENOUGH OUR THANKS FOR YOUR
WONDERFUL SUPPORT IN THE FORM OF LETTERS, PACKAGES AND PHONE CALLS
FROM THE DAY VANDEGRIFT LEFT SAN DIEGO UNTIL NOW. AND AS HARD AS
WE'VE WORKED TO MAKE THIS CRUISE A SUCCESS, WE KNOW THAT YOU HAVE
GIVEN JUST AS MUCH EFFORT IN TAKING CARE OF THE HOUSE, KIDS, CAR AND
DOG WITH NO HELP FROM US.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE FOR ALL THE VANDEGRIFT WIVES, JUST AS YOU
HAVE PROBABLY CHANGED A LITTLE SINCE WE'VE BEEN GONE (POSSIBLY
GOTTEN MORE INDEPENDENT?), REALIZE THAT WE MAY HAVE CHANGED TO
SOME DEGREE ALSO. SOME OF US HAVE ADDED A LITTLE WEIGHT OR
SUBTRACTED A LITTLE HAIR (LIKE ME ON BOTH COUNTS), AND ALL OF US
HAVE GOTTEN USED TO HAVING ONLY OTHER MEN AS COMPANIONS. IF WE
ACT A LITTLE WEIRD AT FIRST, PLEASE BE PATIENT WITH US.

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ADM MED 1LT CMS RM2 SM1 CSO GMF AIR

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ROUTINE

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AGAIN I AM VERY PROUD OF THE JOB THAT BOTH OF YOU AND YOUR SPECIAL VANDY SAILOR HAVE DONE DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS AND SINCERELY LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING ALL OF YOU. UNTIL I DO, MY BEST WISHES FOR A JOYOUS AND WELL DESERVED REUNION.

J. A. CORSI
COMMANDING OFFICER

AS I SEE IT...
ETCS(SW) (b) (6) USN
COMMAND SENIOR CHIEF

TODAY IS A GOOD DAY. I AM WRITING THIS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 12 (THE VAGARIES OF THE MAIL SYSTEM BEING WHAT THEY ARE, WHO KNOWS WHEN YOU ARE READING IT), AND WE ARE SLIGHTLY MORE THAN THREE FOURTHS THROUGH OUR DEPLOYMENT. WE HAVE ALREADY LEFT THE ARABIAN GULF, AND FROM HERE ON OUT EVERY MILE WE TRAVEL BRINGS US NEARER TO OUR FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES, EVERY DAY BRINGS OUR REUNION WITH YOU THAT MUCH CLOSER.

AS I SAID IN AN EARLIER LETTER, NOTHING THAT SEPARATES US FROM YOU IS DESIRABLE. BUT, AS DEPLOYMENTS GO, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ASK FOR A BETTER ONE THAN THIS. WE HAVE BEEN GONE ALMOST FIVE MONTHS NOW AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO DEATHS OR INJURIES, NO UNUSUAL PROBLEMS OR ACCIDENTS IN ANY OF THE PORTS WE VISITED, AND NOTHING APPEARS TO BE TAKING PLACE IN THIS VOLATILE PART OF THE WORLD THAT SHOWS ANY SIGNS OF KEEPING US HERE ONE DAY LONGER THAN NECESSARY.

THE SCHEDULE FOR OUR TRANSIT HOME HAS SUFFERED NUMEROUS CHANGES, AND IN EACH CASE THE CHANGES HAVE PLEASED SOME AND DISAPPOINTED OTHERS. THE IMPORTANT THING TO NOTE IS THAT AT NO TIME WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THAT SCHEDULE (THAT SMALL EVENT ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 25TH) EVER ALTERED IN ANY WAY. BY THE TIME WE RETURN HOME WE WILL HAVE VISITED TWELVE PORTS IN SEVEN COUNTRIES, AND TRAVELED (LITERALLY) HALF WAY AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK AGAIN.

OUR CREW HAS CONTINUED TO PERFORM EVERY MISSION SET BEFORE THEM SUPERBLY. AS THE FIRST SHIP EVER TO TRANSIT THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ WHILE CONDUCTING TOWED SONAR ARRAY OPERATIONS, WE RECEIVED RECOGNITION THROUGHOUT THE FLEET FOR OUR ACCOMPLISHMENT. VANDEGRIFT'S DUTIES AS ESCORT FOR SANCTIONS VIOLATORS WERE ALSO COMPLETED FLAWLESSLY, INCLUDING SUPERB EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THE VISIT-BOARD-SEARCH-SEIZURE TEAM WHICH CONDUCTED NUMEROUS SAFE AND INCIDENT FREE BOARDINGS AND INSPECTIONS, THE ENGINEERS WHO TOOK RAGGED SHIPS THAT SEEMED TO BE HELD TOGETHER BY BUBBLE GUM AND SHOESTRINGS AND KEPT THEM AFLOAT AND RUNNING, AND OUR DECK CREW WHO COMPLETED EVERY EVOLUTION IMPECCABLY.

JUST AS WE WERE PREPARING TO LEAVE THE GULF AND HEAD HOME, WE RECEIVED SHORT NOTICE TASKING TO HOST A RECEPTION FOR AS MANY AS THREE HUNDRED GUESTS. WORKING WITH ONLY A FEW DAYS NOTICE, DECK DIVISION ALMOST COMPLETELY PAINTED THE SHIP TO MAKE IT SPARKLE, THE SUPPLY DEPARTMENT PUT TOGETHER A SUPERB BUFFET, THE SIGNALMEN

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COMPLETELY DECORATED THE FLIGHT DECK AND HELO HANGERS, AND TO OUR GUESTS (INCLUDING ADMIRALS, AMBASSADORS, FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND HEADS OF STATE) IT APPEARED THAT VANDEGRIFT DID THINGS LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME.

YOUR HUSBANDS HAVE CONTINUED TO SHINE, WITH NUMEROUS NEW AWARDS PRESENTED DURING THE LAST TWO AWARDS CEREMONIES (ONE HELD IN JEBEL ALI, AND THE OTHER IN MUSCAT). CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WHO ALL RECEIVED PERSONAL AWARDS, INCLUDING SEVERAL AWARDS FROM VICE ADMIRAL REDD, THE COMMANDER OF U.S. NAVAL FORCES IN THE CENTRAL COMMAND REGION:

NAVY COMMENDATION MEDALS

LT (b) (6)	ENS (b) (6)	ENC3(SW) (b) (6)
ENS	DCC	HM1(SW)
ET1	GSM1	OS2(SW)
EW2		

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDALS

HM3 (b) (6)	QM2 (b) (6)	FC2 (b) (6)
SH1	EMC	LT (b) (6)
MS1	MS1	LTJG (b) (6)
BMC	DS1	EN1 (b) (6)
HT1	IC2	AD1
SK3	EN2	EM2
LT	CWO2	SH2

COMUSNAVCENT LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

AT1 (b) (6)	OS1 (b) (6)	SK1 (b) (6)
FC2	MR2	GMM2
OS2	SH3	GSM3
YN3	BM3	

I AM PARTICULARLY PROUD OF SEVERAL OF THE CREW WHO COMPLETED THEIR ENLISTED SURFACE WARFARE SPECIALIST QUALIFICATIONS. OS1(SW) (b) (6), OS2(SW) (b) (6), ET3(SW) (b) (6), OS2(SW) (b) (6), RM2(SW) (b) (6) AND OS2(SW) (b) (6) SET THE STANDARD FOR PROFESSIONALISM AND SEVERAL OTHERS ARE POISED TO FOLLOW IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS.

VANDEGRIFT WILL BE HOME SOON, I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU ON THE PIER WHEN WE PULL IN. PLEASE TRY AND STAY IN TOUCH OVER THE SUMMER, WE WILL STILL HAVE WIFE'S CLUB MEETINGS, COMMAND PICNICS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES, BUT WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT IT IS HARD TO KEEP THINGS GOING. (b) (6) AND (b) (6) ARE ALREADY WORKING ON THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS PARTY (IT WILL PROBABLY BE ON DECEMBER 15TH), AND WILL NEED LOTS OF HELP TO ENSURE THIS PARTY MAKES UP FOR LAST CHRISTMAS.

(b) (6)

ETCS(SW)

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COMBAT SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT

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CS-3 FAMILYGRAM

EVERYTHING IN ORDNANCE DIVISION COULDN'T BE BETTER. NOW THAT THE SHIP IS ON IT'S LAST FORTY NINE DAYS, THE DIVISION CAN REFLECT BACK ON A LOT OF GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS. AS THE PROTECTORS OF USS VANDEGRIFT OUR EQUIPMENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN READY THROUGHOUT THE DEPLOYMENT, AND OUR MEN REWARDED ACCORDINGLY.

THE GUNNERS HAVE LEARNED THAT SAND AND SMALL ARMS ARE NOT A COHESIVE COMBINATION. MANY HOURS HAVE BEEN SPENT BY GMM2 (b)(6) AND GMM3 (b)(6) ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE WORKCENTER CLEANING ALL TOPSIDE GUNS - KEEPING THEM LOOKING GOOD AND READY TO FIRE.

GMM2 (b)(6), GMM2(SW) (b)(6) AND GMM3 (b)(6) HAVE DONE AN EXCEPTIONAL JOB KEEPING THE LAUNCHER AT 100 DURING THE ENTIRE DEPLOYMENT IN THE GULF. SPENDING MANY INPORT HOURS ENSURING ALL LAUNCHER MAINTENANCE IS COMPLETED.

FC1(SW) (b)(6), FC3 (b)(6), AND FC3 (b)(6) JUST FINISHED GIVING CIWS A COMPLETE MAKE OVER. THEIR SYSTEM HAS NEVER LOOKED AND WORKED BETTER.

FC1 (b)(6), FC2 (b)(6), AND FC2 (b)(6) KEPT THE MK 92 SYSTEM IN TOP FORM GUARANTEEING THE SHIP WAS ALWAYS PROTECTED UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF THEIR RADARS.

THE DIVISION WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEW COMER GMM1(SW) (b)(6) FROM PHYSIC SEC GURITY POINT LOMA. WE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE FC2 (b)(6) FOR RECEIVING A LETTER OF COMMENDATION AND A NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL FOR HIS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS AS WEAPONS CONTROL OFFICER. CONGRATULATIONS ALSO GO TO GMM2 (b)(6) AND FC2 (b)(6) FOR RECEIVING ADMIRALS LETTERS OF COMMENDATION FROM COMUSNAVCENT ADMIRAL REDD FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING JOB AS MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS.

AS A DIVISION WE HAVE SEEN MANY CHANGES THIS DEPLOYMENT. WE GAINED THE LEADERSHIP AND EXPERIENCE OF FCC(SW/AW) (b)(6) COUPLED WITH A NEW LEADING PETTY OFFICER FC1(SW) (b)(6). NOW EVERYTHING IS AS THEY SAY "NO PROBLEM." WE ALSO GAINED LT (b)(6) AS THE NEW ORDNANCE OFFICER AND WISH HIM MUCH LUCK WITH AMMO ADMIN AND THE DIVISION.

THOUGH THE DAYS MIGHT BE DRAGGING, WE ALL KNOW IN ORDNANCE DIVISION THAT ALL GOOD THINGS TAKE TIME—OUR RETURN HOME SHOULDN'T BE ANY DIFFERENT. JUST 7 MORE WEEKS (1176 HOURS) LEFT UNTIL THE END OF WEST-PAC. LIKE WE SAID LAST FAMILY GRAM, WHO'S COUNTING?

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

EM02 DIVISION

EM02 HAS HAD MANY CHANGES IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS. EN1 (b)(6) AND EN3 (b)(6) FINISHED UP THEIR CAREERS IN THE NAVY AND HAVE LEFT FOR HOME. WE WELCOME EN2 (b)(6) TO THE DIVISION. CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER FOR EN2 (b)(6) ON A RECENT NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL FOR HIS OUTSTANDING WORK. OUR OTHER "NEW" SECOND CLASS PETTY OFFICERS, EN2 (b)(6) AND EN2 (b)(6) ALSO DESERVE A WORD OF CONGRATULATIONS. EN3 (b)(6)

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(b) (6) JUST RECEIVED A GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL FOR 4 OUTSTANDING YEARS OF SERVICE. ENCS (b) (6) AND EN1 (b) (6) HAVE KEPT THE SHIP RUNNING THROUGH THE DEPLOYMENT. WITH THE HELP OF EN3 (b) (6), EN3 (b) (6), ENFN (b) (6), AND FN (b) (6) USS VANDEGRIFT HAS BEEN UNDERWAY, ABLE TO MEET ALL OF ITS COMMITMENTS. GREAT JOB GUYS!

EM03 DIVISION

GREETINGS FROM JEBEL ALI, UAE TO THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF VANDEGRIFT'S TALENTED ELECTRICIAN'S MATES. SINCE THE LAST FAMILYGRAM, SEVERAL NEW FACES JOINED THE DIVISION: EM2 (b) (6), WHO COMPLETED A TOUR AS A RECRUITER IN KENTUCKY (AND WAS AN HONOR GRADUATE FROM HIS ENROUTE SCHOOLING!), EM2 (b) (6), WHO CAME TO US FROM SECURITY DUTY AT NAVAL MAGAZINE LUALUALEI, HAWAII AND EM3 (b) (6), WHO CAME FROM USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-64) HOMEPORTED IN YOKOSUKA, JAPAN. WE ALSO SAW THE DEPARTURE OF EM2(SW) (b) (6), WHO COMPLETED A SUCCESSFUL 7-MONTH TEMPORARY DUTY TOUR ON VANDEGRIFT. WE WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AT HIS NEXT COMMAND, SIMA SAN DIEGO. EM2 (b) (6) AND EM3 (b) (6) WHO ARE HERE TAD FROM USS CAPE COD (AO-43), CONTINUE TO DO AN OUTSTANDING JOB WITH EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE, AND EM3 (b) (6) HAS NEARLY COMPLETED HIS ESWS QUALIFICATION AS WELL. EM3 (b) (6) RECENTLY COMPLETED A 2-MONTH TOUR AS FOOD SERVICE ATTENDANT AND FN (b) (6) (THE DIVISION'S LONE ELECTRICAL APPRENTICE) DOES A MASTERFUL JOB WITH DAMAGE CONTROL MAINTENANCE AND CONTINUES TO HONE HIS TECHNICAL SKILLS. ADDITIONALLY, EM3 (b) (6) AND EM3 (b) (6) RECEIVED THE NAVY GOOD CONDUCT AWARD. CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHIEF, EMC(SW) (b) (6), WHO WAS AWARDED THE NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL FOR THE WONDROUS DEEDS HE HAS DONE (SO FAR) DURING THE DEPLOYMENT. HE ALSO RECEIVED HIS FOURTH GOOD CONDUCT AWARD. FINALLY, CONGRATS TO OUR DIVISION OFFICER, LTJG (b) (6) WHO REBOUNDED FROM THE HOSPITAL TO COMPLETE HIS SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER QUALIFICATION. AS THE NUMBER OF DAYS UNTIL HOMECOMING DROP INTO THE LOW 40'S, WE WISH EVERYONE WELL. SEE YOU SOON!

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

"GREETINGS FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION"

AS WE LEAVE A SUCCESSFUL DEPLOYMENT IN THE ARABIAN SEA, THE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION CAN BE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF THEIR PERFORMANCE. WE HAVE MAINTAINED 100 PCT COMMUNICATIONS CONNECTIVITY, PROCESSED OVER 4000 INCOMING AND 1000 OUTGOING MESSAGES A MONTH AND PASSED ALL COMMUNICATION TESTS AND EXERCISES. WELCOME ABOARD TO THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNICATIONS TEAM. RM3 (b) (6) FROM NAB CORONADO, CA, RMSN (b) (6) FROM NTC SAN DIEGO, CA, SMSN (b) (6) FROM NTC SAN DIEGO, CA, AND SM2 (b) (6) FROM NTC SAN DIEGO, CA. FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS TO RM2(SW) (b) (6) WHO QUALIFIED ENLISTED SURFACE WARFARE SPECIALIST AND SM2 (b) (6)

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(b) (6) WHO HAS BEEN SELECTED AS A MEMBER OF THE U.S. NAVY CEREMONIAL GUARD IN WASHINGTON D.C.

GOOD LUCK TO RM3 (b) (6) AND RM3 (b) (6) AS THEY PARTICIPATE IN THE NAVY WIDE ADVANCEMENT EXAM FOR RM2. RM2 (b) (6) HAS RECEIVED THE QUALIFICATION OF DIVISIONAL HAZARDOUS MATERIAL REPRESENTATIVE. RM3 (b) (6) HAS COMPLETED BASIC DAMAGE CONTROL PQS AND SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THE WRITTEN EXAM.

THE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION WISHES OUR FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES ALL THE PEACE AND LOVE IN THE WORLD. LOOKING AT THE CALENDAR, "IT'S NOT FAR NOW". MAY GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU ALL.

DECK DIVISION

WE ARE IN OUR FINAL SIX WEEKS OF OUR DEPLOYMENT. WE PASSED THROUGH THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ FOR THE LAST TIME, LEAVING THE ARABIAN GULF BEHIND US. MUCH HAS GONE ON SINCE THE LAST FAMILY GRAM. FIRST OF ALL WE'D LIKE TO EXTEND A HEARTY WELCOME ABOARD TO THREE NEW FACES: BM2 (b) (6), BM3 (b) (6) AND SR (b) (6). BM2 (b) (6) HAS BEEN A GREAT ADDITION TO OUR UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT TEAM. BM3 (b) (6) HAS ASSUMED THE HIGHLY VISIBLE ROLE AS BOATSWAIN MATE OF THE WATCH AND SR (b) (6) HAS BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO ALL WITH HIS EAGER AND ENTHUSIASTIC ATTITUDE. WE'D ALSO LIKE TO WELCOME SA (b) (6) BACK FROM HIS THREE MONTH TOUR IN SUPPLY DEPARTMENT AS A FOOD SERVICE ATTENDANT.

THE RECENT NAVY WIDE EXAMINATIONS WERE RECENTLY ADMINISTERED. TAKING THE TEST FOR FIRST CLASS PETTY OFFICER WERE BM2 (b) (6) AND BM2 (b) (6). TAKING THE TEST FOR SECOND CLASS WERE BM3 (b) (6), BM3 (b) (6), BM3 (b) (6) AND BM3 (b) (6). AND OUR THREE NEW DESIGNATED BOATSWAIN MATES WHO TOOK THE TEST FOR THIRD CLASS WERE BMSN (b) (6), BMSN (b) (6) AND BMSN (b) (6). SN (b) (6) WAS RECENTLY SELECTED BY THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO BECOME A HULL TECHNICIAN (HT) IN MAY 95. SA (b) (6) IS ALSO ON HIS WAY TO STRIKING OUT OF DECK. HE WILL BE CONDUCTING SOME ON-THE-JOB TRAINING WITH THE YEOMEN AND RETURN TO THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD IN MAY. SR (b) (6) HAS SET HIS SIGHTS ON THE QUARTERMASTER RATING WHILE SA (b) (6) IS WORKING ON STRIKING POSTAL CLERK.

DECK RECENTLY CONDUCTED A VERY RARE EVOLUTION - AN UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT OF A MERCHANT SHIP! LEAD BY BMC (b) (6) AND ASSISTED BY BM2 (b) (6), BM3 (b) (6), SN (b) (6), SA (b) (6), SR (b) (6) AND SA (b) (6), DECK RIGGED FIREHOSES CONNECTED TO FLOATING FENDERS TO ACT AS A FUEL LINE. OUR SMALL BOAT DROVE THE FIREHOSE LINE OVER TO THE MERCHANT SHIP WHERE BM1 (b) (6) RIGGED IT TO THE MERCHANT VESSEL. EVERYONE PERFORMED SUPERBLY DESPITE NEVER HAVING TRAINED FOR THIS TYPE OF EVOLUTION.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF BMC (b) (6) AND BM1 (b) (6) THE ENTIRE DIVISION, MOST NOTABLY SA (b) (6), SA (b) (6), SN (b) (6), SA (b) (6) AND SA (b) (6) WORKED SUNRISE TO SUNSET PREPARING THE SHIP FOR A MAJOR MILITARY/POLITICAL RECEPTION. THE ENTIRE SUPERSTRUCTURE, SIDES, FLIGHT DECK,

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STARBOARD HELICOPTER HANGER AND CENTERLINE PASSAGEWAY UNDERWENT A MASSIVE REPAINTING EFFORT. VANDEGRIFT WAS THE HOST SHIP FOR A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL RECEPTION THROWN FOR HIGH RANKING OMANI POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS BY VICE ADMIRAL REDD, COMMANDER UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND. WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO APRIL 25TH, UNTIL THEN, WE'LL KEEP HEADING EAST!"

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

HELLO FROM X DIVISION,

AT A RECENT AWARDS CEREMONY HM1(SW) (b)(6) WAS AWARDED THE NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR HIS PREDEPLOYMENT WORK-UP PREPARATIONS AND MA1 (b)(6) RECEIVED A NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL AT THE CHANGE OF COMMAND. HMS S (b)(6) WAS RECOGNIZED AS VANDEGRIFT'S JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE YEAR AND ALSO RECEIVED A NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL. YN3 (b)(6) EARNED A LETTER OF COMMENDATION FROM COMMANDER U.S. NAVAL CENTRAL COMMAND FOR HIS HARD WORK AND DEDICATION DURING THE DEPLOYMENT. EVERYONE IN X-DIVISION IS GLAD TO BEGIN OUR JOURNEY HOME. THE HARD PART IS BEHIND US NOW. WE AWAIT OUR UPCOMING PORT VISITS WITH ANTICIPATION BUT NOTHING CAN BEAT BEING IN HOMEPORT WITH YOU, OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. EVEN SO, WE ARE STILL MEETING OUR COMMITMENTS, EARNING QUALIFICATIONS AND PERFORMING THE MYRIAD DAILY FUNCTIONS THAT KEEP VANDEGRIFT RUNNING SMOOTHLY. KEEP THE FAITH AND WE WILL SEE YOU SOON.

A CLOSING NOTE FROM THE XO.

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT WE'RE HEADING HOME. IT'LL TAKE A FEW WEEKS TO GET BACK, BUT WE'RE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO CROSSING UNDER THE CORONADO BRIDGE AND SEEING YOU ALL ON THE PIER.

EVERYONE HAS WORKED EXCEPTIONALLY HARD AND PERFORMED EXTRAORDINARILY WELL - BUT YOU WOULD NOT HAVE EXPECTED LESS. THEY TRULY MADE VANDEGRIFT THE BEST WARSHIP IN THE PERSIAN GULF. FROM THE AJMER TAKEDOWN DURING OUR FIRST OPERATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF, TO THE AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION IN OUR LAST PORT VISIT, YOUR MEN FLAWLESSLY EXECUTED EVERY MISSION WITH PROFESSIONALISM AND CLASS. VADM REDD SUMMED IT UP WHEN HE TOLD US AT THE RECEPTION - "WHEN TOLD THAT I HAD TO CHOOSE A NEW SHIP TO HOST THE RECEPTION, I SAID THERE WAS NO CHOICE - I WANT VANDEGRIFT, THEY'RE MY BEST SHIP, MY FLAGSHIP."

STEVE JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

UNQUOTE

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151510Z MAR 95

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P 151040Z MAR 95 ZYB

FM USS VANDEGRIFT

TO COMUSNAVCENT//012//

INFO CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N01PA//

CTF ONE FIVE ONE

COMNAVSURFPAC SAN DIEGO CA//N01PA//

COMNAVBASE SAN DIEGO CA//N5//

NAVMEDIACEN WASHINGTON DC//32//

CHINFO WASHINGTON DC//00/NNS//

NAVSTA SAN DIEGO CA//N01P//

FHTNC NORFOLK VA//00//

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NAVINFO WEST LOS ANGELES CA//JJJ//

NAVINFO MIDWEST CHICAGO IL//JJJ//

NAVINFO SOUTHWEST DALLAS TX//JJJ//

NAVINFO SOUTHEAST ATLANTA GA//JJJ//

NAVINFO EAST NEW YORK NY//JJJ//

NAVINFO NEWENG BOSTON MA//JJJ//

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UNCLAS //N05720//

MSGID/GENADMIN/VANDEGRIFT//

SUBJ/PRESS RELEASE//

POC/JOHNSON/CDR/XO/INMARSAT - 873-153-4351/

RMKS/1. FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL AND

IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

QUOTE:

USS VANDEGRIFT VISITS MUSCAT, OMAN
BY LTJG MARK R. GARCIA

ON 11 MARCH 1995, USS VANDEGRIFT MOORED IN MINA AL SULTAN
CAROOS, OMAN, FOR A TWO DAY PORT VISIT TO THE CITY OF MUSCAT.
MUSCAT IS LOCATED ON THE GULF OF OMAN IN THE NORTHERN ARABIAN
GULF AND WAS VANDEGRIFT'S LAST STOP BEFORE HEADING HOME AFTER A
FOUR MONTH PERIOD OF OPERATIONS IN THE ARABIAN GULF.

WHILE IN OMAN, VANDEGRIFT SAILORS ENJOYED THE BEAUTIFUL
MOUNTAIN SCENERY OF OMAN AND THE HOSPITALITY OF LOCAL FOLKS WHILE
PARTICIPATING IN THE EVER POPULAR "HOST A SAILOR PROGRAM". AMERICAN
EXPATRIATES HOSTED VANDEGRIFT SAILORS TO A WIDE VARIETY OF EVENTS
INCLUDING AN AFTERNOON OF VOLLEYBALL, A DESERT MOUNTAIN HIKE,
SCUBA DIVING, A WALK ON THE BEACH AND THE MORE TRADITIONAL
HOST-A-SAILOR EVENT: A HOME COOKED MEAL. BM3 (b) (6) OF

EO 1.3 (X) OPS CSO ENG SUP AER COM RMG CICO CIC
ADM MED 1LT CMS RM2 SM1 CSC GMF AIR

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U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE

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(b) (6) SAID "THE HOST A SAILOR PROGRAM WAS VERY RELAXING AND ENJOYABLE." ELEVEN SAILORS INCLUDING OS2 (b) (6) OF (b) (6) AND OSSN (b) (6) OF (b) (6) WERE HOSTED TO DINNER BY THE HONORABLE DAVID J. DUNFORD, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO OMAN. OF THEIR VISIT THEY SAID: "THE AMBASSADOR AND MRS DUNFORD WERE VERY NICE PEOPLE, VERY HOSPITABLE" AND "THEY MADE US FEEL LIKE WE WERE BACK IN THE STATES."

DURING THE SHORT VISIT, VANDEGRIFT SAILORS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE WIDE VARIETY OF SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN MUSCAT'S SUUK (SHOPPING DISTRICT). IN ADDITION, THEY ENJOYED THE LOCAL ARAB CUISINE AS WELL AS THE AMERICAN FAST FOOD CHAINS THAT HAVE EVEN FOUND THEIR WAY TO THIS FAR OFF PART OF THE WORLD.

VANDEGRIFT SAILORS ALSO LENT A HELPING HAND TO THE AL AMANA CENTRE AMERICAN MISSION BY DONATING SOME OF THEIR TIME AND HARD WORK. SIX VANDEGRIFT SAILORS TRIMMED TREES, CLEARED BRUSH, AND DID BASIC WIRING AND PAINTING TO IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF THE MISSION BUILDING AND GROUNDS. AMH1 (b) (6) OF (b) (6) DESCRIBED HIS EFFORTS BY SAYING "IT'S A GREAT FEELING HELPING PEOPLE LIKE THIS".

VANDEGRIFT'S SPIRIT OF GIVING CONTINUED WITH PARTICIPATION IN A VERY SUCCESSFUL BLOOD DRIVE. THIRTY THREE SAILORS LED BY VANDEGRIFT'S CORPSMAN HM1 (b) (6) OF (b) (6) GAVE BLOOD TO SUPPORT A LOCAL HOSPITAL'S DIMINISHING SUPPLY. THEIR CHARITY WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED BY THE HOSPITAL OFFICIALS AND WAS FEATURED IN AN ARTICLE IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

DURING THE LAST NIGHT IN PORT, VANDEGRIFT'S OFFICERS AND CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS REPAID THE HOSPITALITY OF THE LOCAL AMERICAN EXPATRIATES AND OMANI PEOPLE, HOSTING A LAVISH RECEPTION FOR AMBASSADOR DUNFORD AND VICE ADMIRAL JOHN SCOTT REDD, COMMANDER, NAVAL FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND, VANDEGRIFT ENTERTAINED THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH EXPATRIATE COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS NUMEROUS OMANI DIGNITARIES. THE RECEPTION WAS AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS AS OVER TWO HUNDRED GUESTS FILLED VANDEGRIFT'S FLIGHT DECK TO ENJOY A WONDERFUL EVENING OF AMERICAN HOSPITALITY. VANDEGRIFT'S SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, LED BY LT (b) (6) OF (b) (6) AND MSC (b) (6) OF (b) (6), PUT ON A FLAWLESS AFFAIR. MANY OF THE GUESTS ENJOYED PERSONAL TOURS OF THE SHIP AS VANDEGRIFT'S OFFICERS AND CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OFF THEIR IMPRESSIVE WARSHIP.

VADM REDD HONORED SEVERAL OF VANDEGRIFT'S EXCEPTIONAL CREWMEMBERS DURING THE RECEPTION. IN RECOGNITION OF THE TRULY OUTSTANDING JOB THEY'D DONE WHILE IN THE ARABIAN GULF, ENS (b) (6) OF (b) (6) AND DCC (b) (6) OF (b) (6) RECEIVED NAVY COMMENDATION MEDALS AND BMC (b) (6) OF (b) (6), MS1 (b) (6) OF (b) (6) AND MS1 (b) (6) OF (b) (6), WERE AWARDED THE NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL.

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ROUTINE

151040Z MAR 95

U N C L A S S I F I E D

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USS VANDEGRIFT IS NOW HEADING EAST TOWARDS HER HOMEPORT OF
SAN DIEGO, CA. AFTER PLANNED VISITS TO SINGAPORE AND MANILA,
VANDEGRIFT WILL RETURN TO SAN DIEGO IN LATE APRIL FOR A JOYOUS
REUNION WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
UNQUOTE

2. FHTNC HOLD FILE VALID.//
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U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
151040Z MAR 95

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U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
161700Z MAR 95
LOAA00020

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ZNR UUUUU

R 161700Z MAR 95 ZYB

FM USS VANDEGRIFT

TO COMUSNAVCENT//012//

INFO CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N01PA//

CTF ONE FIVE ONE

COMNAVSURFPAC SAN DIEGO CA//N01PA//

COMNAVBASE SAN DIEGO CA//N5//

NAVMEIACEN WASHINGTON DC//32//

CHINFO WASHINGTON DC//00/NNS//

NAVSTA SAN DIEGO CA//N01P//

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NAVINFO WEST LOS ANGELES CA//JJJ//

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NAVINFO EAST NEW YORK NY//JJJ//

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MSGID/GENADMIN/VANDEGRIFT//

SUBJ/PRESS RELEASE//

POC/JOHNSON/CDR/-/INMARSAT 011-873-153-4351/

RMKS/1. FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL AND
IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

QUOTE:

VANDEGRIFT PRESENTS 29 ARABIAN GULF AWARDS

BY LTJG MARK R. GARCIA

USS VANDEGRIFT RECENTLY RECOGNIZED 33 TOP PERFORMERS IN AN
AWARDS CEREMONY THAT MARKED THE END OF VANDEGRIFT'S HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL
ARABIAN GULF OPERATIONS. THE AWARDS CEREMONY WAS CONDUCTED 15 MARCH
1995, THE DAY AFTER GETTING UNDERWAY FROM MUSCAT, OMAN TO HEAD EAST
FOR SAN DIEGO.

EACH AWARD RECOGNIZED EXTRAORDINARY INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION TO
IMPORTANT MISSIONS WHICH INCLUDED MARITIME INTERDICTION OPERATIONS
IN SUPPORT OF UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAQ, A MAJOR ASW
EXERCISE IN THE ARABIAN GULF, THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ AND THE GULF OF
OMAN, AND THE DRAMATIC NON-COOPERATIVE TAKE-DOWN OF THE SUSPECTED
UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS VIOLATOR M/V AJMER. THE AWARDS WERE SIGNED
BY VICE ADMIRAL JOHN SCOTT REDD, COMMANDER UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES
CENTRAL COMMAND (COMUSNAVCENT).

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED NAVY COMMENDATION MEDALS:

LT (b) (6) 32, (b) (6)
ENS (b) (6) 31, (b) (6)
ENCS(SW) (b) (6) 34, (b) (6)

CSO ENG SUP AIR COM CICO CIC
ADM MED 1LT CMS RM2 SM1 CSC GMP AIR

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ROUTINE
161700Z MAR 95

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ROUTINE
161700Z MAR 95

ET1 (b) (6) 32, (b) (6)
GSM1 (b) (6) 28, (b) (6)
OS2(SW) (b) (6) 24, (b) (6)
EW2 (b) (6) 28, (b) (6)
LT (b) (6) 26, (b) (6)
LTJG (b) (6) 24, (b) (6)
EMC(SW) (b) (6) 35, (b) (6)
HT1 (b) (6) 39, (b) (6)
DS1 (b) (6) 29, (b) (6)
EN1 (b) (6) 31, (b) (6)
AD1(AW) (b) (6) 38, (b) (6)
QM2 (b) (6) 22, (b) (6)
IC2 (b) (6) 24, (b) (6)
FC2 (b) (6) 25, (b) (6)
SK3 (b) (6) 22, (b) (6)

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WERE AWARDED NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDALS:

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED COMUSNAVJENT LETTERS OF
COMMENDATION:

AT1(AW) (b) (6) 30, (b) (6)
OS1(SW) (b) (6) 30, (b) (6)
SK1 (b) (6) 36, (b) (6)
FC2 (b) (6) 25, (b) (6)
OS2 (b) (6) 22, (b) (6)
MR2 (b) (6) 38, (b) (6)
GMM2 (b) (6) 23, (b) (6)
YN3 (b) (6) 25, (b) (6)
SH3 (b) (6) 29, (b) (6)
BM3 (b) (6) 25, (b) (6)
GSM3 (b) (6) 22, (b) (6)

VANDEGRIFT ALSO RECOGNIZED SEVERAL PERSONNEL FOR EXCEPTIONAL
PERFORMANCE NOT RELATED TO THE ARABIAN GULF OPERATIONS; HM1(SW)
(b) (6) 28, OF (b) (6) RECEIVED A NAVY COMMENDATION
MEDAL AND NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDALS WERE PRESENTED TO
SH1(SW) (b) (6) 34, (b) (6)

EM2(SW) (b) (6) 30, (b) (6)
HM3 (b) (6) 25, (b) (6)

USS VANDEGRIFT IS CURRENTLY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN HEADING HOME FOR
SAN DIEGO. CREWMEMBERS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO PORT VISITS IN
SINGAPORE, MANILA AND PEARL HARBOR ON THEIR WAY TO A LATE APRIL
HOMECOMING WHICH WILL BE EXACTLY SIX MONTHS TO THE DAY THEY LAST SAW
SAN DIEGO.

UNQUOTE

2. FHTNC HOLD FILE VALID.//

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U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
161700Z MAR 95

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U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
190627Z MAR 95
LIAA00056

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ZNR UUUUUU

F 190627Z MAR 95 PSM 839085G33
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO RHPBAAV/USS VANDEGRIFT
INFO RUHPNUL/COMDESRON SEVEN
RUHDFAA/COMNAVSURFPAC SAN DIEGO CA//00//
RUHDXFS/COMDESRON THREE THREE
RUHMHAAH/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//00//
RUHPZAE/COMCRUDESGRU ONE
RUFTNAR/ROCJNAV/COMUSNAVCENT
BT

UNCLAS MUSCAT 001396
TO CAPTAIN CORSI FROM AMBASSADOR DUNFORD
E.O. 12350: DECL: NA
TAGS: AMGT, MU

SUBJECT: MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION
JOE, YOUR SUPPORT OF VADM SCOTT REDD'S INITIAL VISIT TO
OMAN CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS SUPERLATIVE. ON SHORT
NOTICE, YOU PUT TOGETHER THE BEST SHIPBOARD RECEPTION
THAT I AND SEVERAL OTHERS HAVE EVER SEEN. PLEASE EXTEND
MY PERSONAL APPRECIATION TO ALL INVOLVED. THE IMMACULATE
PAGE 02 RUHPSGG9872 UNCLAS MUSCAT 001396
CONDITION OF THE SHIP, THE ESPRIT DE CORPS OF THE
OFFICERS AND MEN, AND THE QUALITY, TASTE AND
PRESENTATION OF THE FOOD WERE THE RIGHT RECIPE FOR A
TRULY PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE. YOUR EFFORTS CONTRIBUTED
NOT ONLY TO A SUCCESSFUL VISIT FOR COMUSNAVCENT BUT WENT
A LONG WAY TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION IN THE SULTANATE. WE
HOPE TO SEE THE USS VANDEGRIFT AGAIN IN OMAN WHEN SHE
DEPLOYS TO THE REGION. FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS.
DUNFORD
BT

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CO *pic* OPS CSO ENG SUP AIR *COM* RMC CICO CIC
ADM MED 1LT RM2 SM1 CSC GME AIG

CHOP *SP* COPY *]*

U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
190627Z MAR 95

PAGE 1

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U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
060700Z APR 95
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FM USS VANDEGRIFT

TO COMSEVENTHFLT//012//

FHTNC NORFOLK VA//00//

INFO CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N01PA//

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COMNAVSURFPAC SAN DIEGO CA//N01PA//

COMNAVBASE SAN DIEGO CA//N5//

NAVMEIACEN WASHINGTON DC//32//

CHINFO WASHINGTON DC//00/NNS//

NAVSTA SAN DIEGO CA//N01P//

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NAVINFO WEST LOS ANGELES CA//JJJ//

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NAVINFO NEWENG BOSTON MA//JJJ//

BT

UNCLAS //N05720//

MSGID/GENADMIN/VANDEGRIFT//

SUBJ/PRESS RELEASE//

POC/PAYNE/LTJG/VANDEGRIFT/LOC: WESTPAC/-//

RMKS/1. POL PRESREL SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL AND IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

USS VANDEGRIFT MAKES GOODWILL VISITS TO
SINGAPORE AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BY LT JASON D BARBINO

CONCLUDING A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ARABIAN GULF DEPLOYMENT, USS
VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48) RECENTLY MADE PORT CALLS ON THE ISLAND NATIONS
OF SINGAPORE AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

AFTER OVER THREE MONTHS OF DUTY IN THE ARABIAN GULF, SINGAPORE
PROVED TO BE A WELL DESERVED RESPITE FOR THE ENTIRE CREW. DURING
VANDEGRIFT'S 22-28 MARCH VISIT EVERY CREWMEMBER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY
TO TAKE IN THE UNIQUE MELTING POT OF CULTURES THAT CALL THIS NATION
HOME.

A NATION BOTH RICHLY HISTORICAL AND YET VERY CONTEMPORARY,
SINGAPORE RECEIVED THE SAILORS IN STYLE AND TREATED THEM TO EXCELLENT
SIGHTSEEING, SPECTACULAR SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES AND CUISINE RANGING
FROM THE FAMILIAR TO THE EXOTIC. THE CREW ALSO TOOK TIME OUT TO GIVE
SOMETHING BACK TO THE SINGAPORE COMMUNITY, WORKING DURING THEIR OFF
DUTY HOURS TO PERFORM UPKEEP AND IMPROVEMENTS ON THE AMERICAN
MISSIONS. WITHOUT EXCEPTION THE ENTIRE VANDEGRIFT CREW FOUND

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U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
060700Z APR 95

SINGAPORE TO BE A TRUE JEWEL OF THE ORIENT.

FOLLOWING A SHORT UNDERWAY PERIOD, THE HIGHLIGHT OF WHICH WAS THE CROSSING OF THE EQUATOR—A FIRST FOR OVER HALF OF THE CREW, VANDEGRIFT RETURNED TO THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER FIVE YEARS FOR A FIVE DAY VISIT 01-05 APRIL. WHILE PREVIOUS PORT CALLS HAD BEEN TO SUBIC BAY, THIS TIME VANDEGRIFT MOORED IN DOWNTOWN MANILA. WITH NUMEROUS VANDEGRIFT SAILORS HAVING FAMILY AND FRIENDS LIVING IN THE PHILIPPINES, THIS PORT WAS A PRE-HOMECOMING FOR SOME OF THE CREW.

THE CITY TURNED OUT WITH OPEN ARMS. VANDEGRIFT WAS MET PIERSIDE BY A CROWD OF WELL WISHERS AND EVERYWHERE HER SAILORS WENT THEY WERE MET WITH UNMATCHED HOSPITALITY. THE CREW NOT ONLY EXPLORED THE CAPITAL, BUT ALSO CAPTURED THE TRUE FLAVOR OF THE COUNTRY BY TRAVELING TO OTHER CITIES THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND OF LUZON. HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED TOURS OF THE ISLAND FORTRESS OF CORREGIDOR, RAFTING IN THE MOUNTAINS AND SIMPLY EXPLORING THE WEALTH OF CULTURE THE COUNTRY HAS TO OFFER.

VANDEGRIFT SAILORS ALSO ENJOYED GETTING TO KNOW THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES. WHETHER IT WAS PROVIDING SHIPBOARD TOURS TO WIDE EYED CHILDREN OR PLAYING SOFTBALL, BASKETBALL AND GOLF WITH THE PHILIPPINE NAVY, VANDEGRIFT'S VISIT GAVE NEW MEANING TO THE TERM GOODWILL. FOLLOWING A JOINT NAVAL EXERCISE WITH THE PHILIPPINE NAVY, VANDEGRIFT IS ON HER WAY TO PEARL HARBOR ENROUTE TO HER FINAL DESTINATION—HOMEPORT SAN DIEGO.

THOUGH THE CREW ANXIOUSLY COUNTS THE DAYS TOWARDS HOME, THEY ALL ARE BRINGING BACK WITH THEM WARM MEMORIES OF THEIR VISITS TO SINGAPORE AND THE PHILIPPINES.

VANDEGRIFT IS TRAVELING IN COMPANY WITH USS JARRETT (FFG-33), ALSO HOMEPORTED IN SAN DIEGO, AND USS DAVID R RAY (DDG-971), HOMEPORTED IN LONG BEACH, CA.

2. PHOTOGRAPHS MAILED TO CHINFO 05APR95 VIA SEPCOR.

3. FOR FYINC NORFOLK: HOLD FILE VERIFIED. ROST DELETE. OS2 (b)(6)
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U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
160940Z APR 95
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FM USS VANDEGRIFT

TO COMTHIRDFLT

INFO CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N01PA//

TU SEVEN FIVE PT NINE PT THREE

COMNAVSURFPAC SAN DIEGO CA//N01PA//

COMNAVBASE SAN DIEGO CA//N5//

NAVMEIACEN WASHINGTON DC//32//

CHINFO WASHINGTON DC//00//NNS//

NAVSTA SAN DIEGO CA//N01P//

FHTNC NORFOLK VA//00//

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NAVINFO WEST LOS ANGELES CA//JJJ//

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NAVINFO SOUTHEAST ATLANTA GA//JJJ//

NAVINFO EAST NEW YORK NY//JJJ//

NAVINFO NEWENG BOSTON MA//JJJ//

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UNCLAS //N05720//

MSGID/GENADMIN/VANDEGRIFT//

SUBJ/PRESS RELEASE//

POC/PAYNE/LTJG/VANDEGRIFT/LOC: WESTPAC/-//

RMKS/1. FOL PRESREL SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL AND IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

USS VANDEGRIFT RETURNS HOME TO

TEARS AND CHEERS FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS

BY LT JASON D RABBINO

THE FIRST RAYS OF DAWN BURST OVER THE HORIZON, THE FINAL STRANDS OF "COLORS" DRIFTED OVER THE BAY AND USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48) CAME SAILING BACK INTO SAN DIEGO BAY ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 25. HER EMOTIONAL RETURN PIERSIDE AT 32ND ST NAVAL STATION MARKED THE END OF A SPECTACULARLY SUCCESSFUL SIX MONTH WESTPAC DEPLOYMENT FOR THE WORLD'S FINEST WARSHIP.

FOLLOWING A DEMANDING SUMMER OF WORKUPS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS, VANDEGRIFT CAST OFF FROM PIER ONE ON THE MORNING OF 25 OCTOBER 1994; NEXT STOP: THE ARABIAN GULF. THE DEMANDS OF DEPLOYMENT BEGAN IMMEDIATELY WITH THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A MIDDLE EAST FORCE EXERCISE (MEFEX) ENROUTE TO PEARL HARBOR.

A QUICK STOPOVER IN HAWAII AND VANDEGRIFT WAS ON HER WAY TO JAPAN. TYPHOON ZELDA THREATENED TO RAIN ON THE PARADE, BUT THE TRANSIT TO SASEBO, JAPAN WOUND UP BEING A VERY SMOOTH ONE. FOR THE NEXT FIVE DAYS VANDEGRIFT SAILORS WERE ABLE TO WORK WITH THEIR JAPANESE COUNTERPARTS IN PREPARING FOR A US-JAPAN COMBINED NAVAL EXERCISE. NOT ONLY DID THE CREW RECEIVE UNMATCHED JAPANESE

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ADM MED 1LT CMS RM2 AIR CSC SM1 GMF AIG

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U N C L A S S I F I E D

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ROUTINE
160940Z APR 95

U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE

160940Z APR 95

HOSPITALITY WHILE IN THE CITY, BUT THEY GAINED INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE FROM WORKING WITH A TRULY PROFESSIONAL NAVAL ALLY.

NEXT CAME LIBERTY IN HONG KONG WHERE CUSTOM MADE CLOTHING, CARVED JEWELRY BOXES AND OF COURSE, CHINESE FOOD, MANAGED TO GIVE EVERYONE AN OPPORTUNITY TO FIND SOMETHING FOR THEM IN THIS EXCITING, FAST PACED CITY WHERE EAST REALLY DOES MEET WEST.

WHILE TRANSITING THE INDIAN OCEAN VANDEGRIFT WAS PUT TO ONE OF HER MOST CHALLENGING TESTS TO DATE. RESPONDING TO A DISTRESS CALL FROM A JAPANESE MERCHANT VESSEL, VANDEGRIFT IMMEDIATELY SWUNG INTO ACTION. WITHIN MINUTES THE SHIP'S EMBARKED SH-60B HELICOPTER WAS AIRBORNE AND ENROUTE TO THE FREIGHTER TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY TRANSPORT TO A CRITICALLY INJURED SEAMAN. AT THE SAME TIME THE SHIP CLOSED AT FLANK SPEED TO FUEL THE AIRCRAFT FOR THE NEXT LEG OF ITS JOURNEY. HOVERING OVER THE MERCHANTMAN THE AIRCRAFT LOWERED VANDEGRIFT'S CORPSMAN AND AN AIRCREWMAN TO THE PITCHING DECK BELOW. AFTER STABILIZING THE PATIENT'S CONDITION THE MEDICAL TEAM HOISTED HIM BACK INTO THE AIRCRAFT AND WERE ON THEIR WAY TO A HOSPITAL IN WESTERN SRI LANKA- OVER 300 MILES AWAY. WHEN THE PATIENT WENT INTO CARDIAC ARREST 45 MINUTES FROM LANDING THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF THE VANDEGRIFT SAILORS PROVIDED LIFE SUSTAINING CPR FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FLIGHT. THE SUCCESS OF THIS RESCUE MISSIONS WAS A TRUE TESTAMENT TO THE HARD WORK AND TRAINING OF THE ENTIRE CREW. AT DAY'S END IT WAS A TIRED BUT SATISFIED SHIP THAT RECEIVED WELL DESERVED CONGRATULATIONS FROM COMSEVENTHFLT.

ARRIVING ON STATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF, VANDEGRIFT ASSUMED A CENTRAL ROLE AS PART OF THE UNITED NATIONS MULTINATIONAL FORCES ENFORCING ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAQ. PROVIDING AIR AND SURFACE SURVEILLANCE THROUGHOUT THE GULF, VANDEGRIFT PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN SUPPORTING UN SANCTIONS AND OUR ALLIES IN THE REGION AS WELL. ONE OF THE MISSION'S DRAMATIC HIGHLIGHTS WAS VANDEGRIFT'S DAY LONG PURSUIT OF A SANCTIONS VIOLATOR ATTEMPTING TO SAIL AWAY FROM A UN DETENTION AREA. AFTER THE SHIP AND HELICOPTER CHASED THE VESSEL THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, DAYLIGHT SAW THE ARRIVAL OF HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS AND A SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAM. WHILE VANDEGRIFT POSITIONED HERSELF TO BLOCK ANY ATTEMPT AT ESCAPE THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAM BOARDED THE VESSEL FROM HOVERING HELICOPTERS AND QUICKLY AND SAFELY RETURNED IT TO UN CONTROL

IN A CEREMONY FOLLOWING CENTURIES OF TRADITION, CDR JOSEPH A. CORSI RELIEVED CDR DAVID C. HARRISON AS VANDEGRIFT'S COMMANDING WHILE UNDERWAY IN THE NORTHERN ARABIAN GULF ON JANUARY 7, 1995.

PORT VISITS WHILE IN THE GULF INCLUDED BAHRAIN, JEBEL ALI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, AND RAS AL KHAIMAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. WHILE INPORT VANDEGRIFT HAD THE HONOR OF HOSTING A RECEPTION FOR THE SULTAN OF RAS AL KHAIMAH. EACH PORT ALLOWED THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW THE PEOPLE OF THE GULF STATES AND TO EXPERIENCE THE UNIQUE AMBIENCE OF THESE HISTORIC CULTURES.

THE FINAL MILESTONE OF OPERATIONS IN THE REGION WAS VANDEGRIFT'S PARTICIPATION IN A TWO WEEK LONG COMBINED ANTISUBMARINE EXERCISE INTEGRATING ALL FACETS OF NAVAL OPERATIONS. HONING ITS SKILLS IN COORDINATION WITH THE USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64) BATTLE GROUP, USS LAKE ERIE (CG-70), USS DAVID R RAY (DD-971) AND USS TOPEKA (SSN-754), THE VANDEGRIFT TEAM RECEIVED HIGH PRAISE AND SERVED NOTICE THAT, NO MATTER WHAT THE SITUATION, IT IS SECOND TO NONE.

U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE

160940Z APR 95

U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
160940Z APR 95

AFTER THREE DEMANDING MONTHS OF SAILING IN THE GULF IT WAS OFF TO MUSCAT, OMAN WHERE VANDEGRIFT HAD THE PRIVLEDGE OF HOSTING A SECOND RECEPTION ONBOARD, THIS TIME FOR THE US AMBASSADOR TO OMAN AND VADM REDD, COMUSNAVCENT. TIRELESS EFFORTS BY THE CREW RESULTED IN THE SHIP LOOKING HER FINEST AND EARNING HIGH PRAISE FROM BOTH THE AMBASSADOR AND VADM REDD.

SINGAPORE WAS VANDEGRIFT'S NEXT STOP AND HAD SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE. A SHOPPER'S PARADISE, A GOURMET'S DELIGHT, OR JUST ALLOWING A TIRED SAILOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO REST ALONGSIDE A SWIMMING POOL- SINGAPORE OFFERED IT ALL. WHILE WORKING HARD TO GET THE SHIP READY FOR THE FINAL TRANSIT HOME THE CREW STILL MANAGED TO FIND TIME TO SOAK IN THE HOSPITALITY AND EXCITEMENT OF THIS TRUE JEWEL OF THE ORIENT.

RETURNING TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AFTER MORE THAN FIVE YEARS, VANDEGRIFT PASSED BY HER OLD ANCHORAGE IN SUBIC BAY AND TIED UP PIERSIDE IN DOWNTOWN MANILA. THE ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD CHEERING HER ARRIVAL PIERSIDE SERVED NOTICE THAT MANILA WAS HAPPY TO WELCOME THE NAVY BACK TO TOWN. THE ENTIRE CITY TURNED OUT IN A TREMENDOUS DISPLAY OF GOODWILL AND FRIENDSHIP. WHETHER THEY STAYED IN MANILA AND EXPLORED THE CITY OR JOURNEYED OUT TO SEE THE EXOTIC SITES AROUND THE ISLAND OF LUZON, THE ENTIRE CREW FOUND THE PHILIPPINES TO BE A GREAT ADVENTURE AND A TERRIFIC PORT OF CALL.

THE REMAINDER OF THE TRANSIT HOMEWARD WAS FILLED WITH THOUGHTS OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS AS WELL AS THE DEMANDING TASK OF GETTING THE SHIP READY FOR HOMECOMING. EVERY SAILOR ONBOARD GAVE IT HIS ALL TO MAKE VANDEGRIFT THE SHOWPLACE OF THE FLEET.

YET, THOUGH THEIR EFFORTS SUCCEEDED BEYOND EXPECTATIONS, THERE WERE FEW THAT COULD CONFESS TO STARING AT THE SHIP'S CONDITION AS VANDEGRIFT SENT ACROSS ITS BROW IN SAN DIEGO- ALL EYES WERE ON THE PIER. BACK IN THE ARMS OF LOVED ONES ONCE AGAIN THE VANDEGRIFT SAILORS TRULY UNDERSTOOD WHAT THEY HAD GONE TO SEA FOR AND REALIZED THAT, AT LONG LAST, THEY WERE FINALLY HOME.

VANDEGRIFT CONDUCTED HER WESTPAC AS PART OF A THREE SHIP SURFACE ACTION GROUP COLLECTIVELY KNOWN AS "THE THREE AMIGOS", HER FELLOW "AMIGOS" WERE USS JARRETT (FFG-33), ALSO HOMEPORTED IN SAN DIEGO, AND USS DAVID R RAY (DD-971), HOMEPORTED IN LONG BEACH, CA.

2. FHTNC HOLD FILE VERIFIED.//

BT

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U N C L A S S I F I E D

ROUTINE
160940Z APR 95



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48)
FLEET POST OFFICE
AP 96682-1502

5728
FFG 48-PAO
07 NOV 97

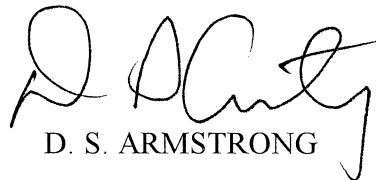
From: Commanding Officer, USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH) (Charles T. Creekman Jr.)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1996

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl (1) 1996 VANDEGRIFT COMMAND HISTORY

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.
2. Please contact SK3 (SW) Jason W. Endress, PAO, at (619) 556-3934 if you have any questions.


D. S. ARMSTRONG

USS VANDEGRIFT 1996 COMMAND HISTORY

Part I

The mission of USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48) is "To provide self defense and effectively supplement planned and existing escorts in the protection of underway replenishment groups, amphibious forces and military and mercantile shipping against subsurface, air and surface threats; to conduct ASW operations in conjunction with other control forces tasked to ensure our use of essential sea lanes of communications; and be the best at it." From 01 January to 04 November 1996, VANDEGRIFT was commanded by CDR Joseph A. Corsi. From 05 November to 31 December 1996, VANDEGRIFT was commanded by CDR David S. Armstrong. VANDEGRIFT was homeported in San Diego, CA and was under the administrative command of Commander, Destroyer Squadron Two-Three, "The Little Beavers".

Part II

The following events occurred during 1996.

Date:	Event:
01-09 Jan	Holiday leave periods end, preps for underway
10 Jan	U/W Seal Beach
11 Jan	Ammo onload, U/W NAVSTA San Diego, Ca
16 Jan-02 Feb	TSTA II
22 Jan-26 Jan	U/W SOCAL TSTA II
29 Jan-02 Feb	U/W SOCAL TSTA II
12-16 Feb	U/W SOCAL TSTA III
16-18 Feb	Visit ship (Broadway Pier)
19 Feb	U/W NAVSTA San Diego, Ca
25 Feb	GENERAL QUARTERS!!! USNS YANO breaks mooring lines causing hull damage to AMR 3, CCS, and COC areas:
26-28 Feb	Final Evaluation Period (FEP) conducted pierside as Fast Cruise
17-21 Mar	U/W PACNORWEST
21 Mar	Missilex 96-5
21-26 Mar	U/W SOCAL
21-23 Mar	IERA
24-26 Mar	Mini-MEFEX Phase II (SOCAL OPAREA)
26-29 Mar	Deperming at SUBBASE Pt. Loma, Ca
29 Mar	U/W NAVSTA San Diego, Ca
01-09 Apr	CSRR (Inport)
05 Apr	U/W SOCAL for CSRR
02 Apr-09 May	IMAV
08-12 Apr	CSOSS Implementation
08-12 Apr	LMA
12 Apr-06 May	Pre-Deployment Leave
01 May	FCC Dunlop Commissioning Ceremony
01 May	Ship's Picnic
07 May	Fast Cruise

07-8 May	Industrial Hygiene Survey
09 May	BSA North Island
10 May	Dependent's Day Cruise
13 May	Commence WESTPAC '96
13-19 May	U/W Pearl Harbor, HI
13-19 May	Operations with USS ANTIETAM and USS REID
19-21 May	I/P Pearl Harbor, HI
20 May	Replace 76 mm Barrel
22 May-03 Jun	U/W Hong Kong
03-07 Jun	I/P Hong Kong
08-12 Jun	U/W Lumut, Malaysia
13-17 Jun	I/P Lumut, Malaysia
18-24 Jun	U/W Karachi, Pakistan
24-27 Jun	Exercise Inspired Siren with Pakistan
25-27 Jun	I/P Karachi, Pakistan
28 Jun-03 Jul	U/W Bahrain
04-07 Jul	I/P Bahrain, MMS onload
08 Jul-02 Aug	U/W in the Arabian Gulf conducting MIO and MPS MODLOC protection
25-29 Jul	XO Turnover
03-07 Aug	Exercise Red Reef with Saudi Arabian Navy
08-15 Aug	U/W MPS MODLOC protection
17-23 Aug	I/P Bahrain, SRU Availability
22 Aug	Ship's picnic ASU Bahrain
24 Aug-07 Sep	U/W SAG/CAG
29 Aug	Escort MPS through SOH
30 Aug	Return through SOH
01 Sep	RDVZ with ARG for SOH transit. ARG extended/transit delayed UFN.
01-04 Sep	ARG protection in CVOA 2
05-07 Sep	MIO
07-16 Sep	Exercise Neon Falcon with Bahrain Navy, USS LABOON, and HMS Edinburgh
17-26 Sep	U/W MIO, Plane Guard Operations
22 Sep	Combined VINSON/ENTERPRISE Battle Group PHOTOEX
24-27 Sep	Escorting USS ARDENT and USS DEXTROUS
26 Sep	SOH transit
01 Oct	Outchop to Seventh Fleet
04 Oct	Shellback Ceremony
04 Oct	Swim call
12-16 Oct	Albany, Australia
17-21 Oct	U/W Enroute Sydney, Australia
22-24 Oct	Sydney, Australia
25-30 Oct	U/W Fiji
30 Oct	I/P Suva, Fiji (BSF) for fueling and PAX onload
30 Oct-5 Nov	U/W Pearl Harbor, HI
31 Oct-04 Nov	PCO turnover
05 Nov	Change of Command (U/W)
05-06 Nov	I/P Pearl Harbor, HI
07-13 Nov	U/W San Diego, Ca

07-13 Nov	Tiger Cruise
13 Nov	Homecoming San Diego, Ca
13 Nov-11 Dec	Post Deployment Standdown
25 Nov-13 Dec	SIMA I/FVMF Availability
17 Dec-31 Dec	Holiday Leave and Upkeep Period

PART III

01 Jan-18 Feb When the crew of VANDEGRIFT returned to the ship from holiday leave and upkeep, they were welcomed with one of the busiest portions of the deployment training cycle. After a short trip to Seal Beach for weapons onload, the ship returned to San Diego for Tailored Ship Training Availability (TSTA) II and TSTA III. It was during these assessment periods that VANDEGRIFT began to show her true colors. The ship continuously demonstrated her readiness by the superior Final Evaluation Period (FEP) level training. The crew finished off their underway time by returning to Broadway Pier in downtown San Diego for a weekend of visit ship, allowing civilians to see one of the finest ships in the harbor.

19-25 Feb After a weekend on display downtown, VANDEGRIFT was underway for a short period to move to Pier 1 NAVSTA, the next week being the last chance for training prior to FEP. The night before FEP the weather was rough. High winds caused the USNS YANO, a Ro-Ro moored at NASSCO, to part all lines except number six. The large cargo ship swung out in the wind and into VANDEGRIFT and USS TISDALE, also moored at Pier 1. This caused considerable damage to VANDEGRIFT.

26-28 Feb The examining team waived the requirement to get underway, so long as VANDEGRIFT simulate being underway. For the next three days lookouts were reporting contacts driving over Coronado Bridge, the bridge and Combat Information Center were manned, and the ship was at MOPP II requiring all hands to carry gas masks. After all of the drills, combat systems evaluations, and engineering evolutions, VANDEGRIFT was given a final grade of excellent with the evaluators commenting on how they and the crew seemed to think they were really underway.

29 Feb-21 Mar After FEP the ship was scheduled to participate in training with the CARL VINSON battle group as part of the Middle East Forces Exercise (MEFEX), however, despite three ten hour shifts a day by NASSCO workers repairing the hull damage, VANDEGRIFT was unable to get underway. This proved to be the only time in 1996 that VANDEGRIFT was unable to meet an operational commitment. Two days after repairs were completed, VANDEGRIFT took in all lines and headed for PACNORWEST. Once off the coast of Oregon and Washington, the crew once again showed their expertise as VANDEGRIFT

operated with USS ARKANSAS, USS CALIFORNIA and USS CAMDEN in a training exercise. This exercise included U.S. Air Force aircraft for a missile shoot. The aircraft were used for air target engagement training while drones were launched for actual missile firing. VANDEGRIFT's Combat Systems department had the best missile shot of the three guided missile ships, with a positive kill while the other ships' missiles were all evaluated as ineffective.

22-29 Mar Once the missile shoot was completed, VANDEGRIFT turned back toward San Diego, but not for an idle cruise. Members of DESRON 23 were onboard for an ISIC Engineering Readiness Assessment (IERA). Throughout the return trip the engineers showed their ability to handle engineering casualties and Main Space Fires. Upon return to SOCAL, VANDEGRIFT did not pull in to port immediately. She dropped off the IERA team and picked up riders for a two day MEFEX. When the ship finally returned to port, it was for four days of hard work at the deperming pier at SUBBASE Pt. Loma, where the crew showed their determination and hard work by completing deperming preparations faster than the magnetic silencing facility had ever seen. Upon completion, VANDEGRIFT returned to Pier 4 for the short period remaining until WESTPAC.

30 Mar-06 May The final weeks before deployment were filled with Supply department's LMA, Combat System's CSRR and CSOSS implementation, and an IMA availability. The crew had a few chances during this time to relax, most notable being the commissioning ceremony of FCC Dunlop and the subsequent ship's picnic.

07-12 May Just prior to deployment VANDEGRIFT was busy with a fast cruise, weapons onload at North Island, and the Dependent's Day Cruise. The Dependent's Day Cruise was special, not only because the families of the crew were along for the ride, but also residents of Solana Beach, VANDEGRIFT's sponsor city.

13 May-03 Jun On the morning of Monday, 13 May 1996, VANDEGRIFT took in all lines and began her six month deployment to the Arabian Gulf. On the first legs of this trip, the crew was constantly training. On the way to Hawaii, USS ANTIETAM and USS RIED were in company and the schedule of events was full. In Pearl Harbor, VANDEGRIFT met with another ship of her SAG, USS RUSSELL, and

03 Jun-03 Jul

continued on after a brief stop for fuel, stores, and a barrel for the 76 mm gun. The first week of June VANDEGRIFT and RUSSELL pulled in to Hong Kong. The crews were given a few days of rest at their first liberty port. Following this brief stop the ships headed toward the Straits of Malacca where they split up with VANDEGRIFT visiting Lumut, Malaysia and RUSSELL pulling in to Phuket, Thailand. While in Lumut the crew experienced the hospitality of the Malaysians while the ship received some minor voyage repairs from the local shipyard. On the morning VANDEGRIFT got underway CDR Corsi proudly frocked the newly advanced E-4's through E-6's and announced three CAP selectees EN1 (b) (6), BM2 (b) (6) and GSM2 (b) (6). Once underway the mood started getting a bit more serious as, prior to pulling in to Karachi, VANDEGRIFT crossed in to the Fifth Fleet area and an increased defense posture. This did not, however, adversely affect the highly successful exercise Inspired Siren. The exercise was part of an ongoing joint exercise to continue improving relations in the area. Upon completion it was clear that VANDEGRIFT's crew was capable of professionalism under any circumstances.

04 Jul-01 Oct

Upon entering the Arabian Gulf VANDEGRIFT continually proved her ability to get the job done. Starting with getting underway early to relieve another ship that was non-mission capable, and continuing until exiting the Gulf in September, VANDEGRIFT showed the flexibility, determination and resourcefulness that seem to have characterized 1996. On several occasions the crew was given as little as thirty minutes notice of tasking changes to conduct Maritime Interception Operations in the North Arabian Gulf, MPS protection in the Southern Arabian Gulf, Amphibious Readiness Group Escort, or plane guard with USS CARL VINSON. Throughout the entire time in the Gulf, VANDEGRIFT never missed an operational commitment and even filled those of other ships. For continued foreign relations, the crew participated in exercises Red Reef and Neon Falcon with the Saudi Arabian and Bahraini navies, respectively. While underway the ship welcomed aboard a new executive officer, LCDR Clay Sellers, and bid farewell to LCDR John Mehki. At 0501 on the morning of 01 OCT, VANDEGRIFT left the Fifth Fleet area.

01-30 Oct

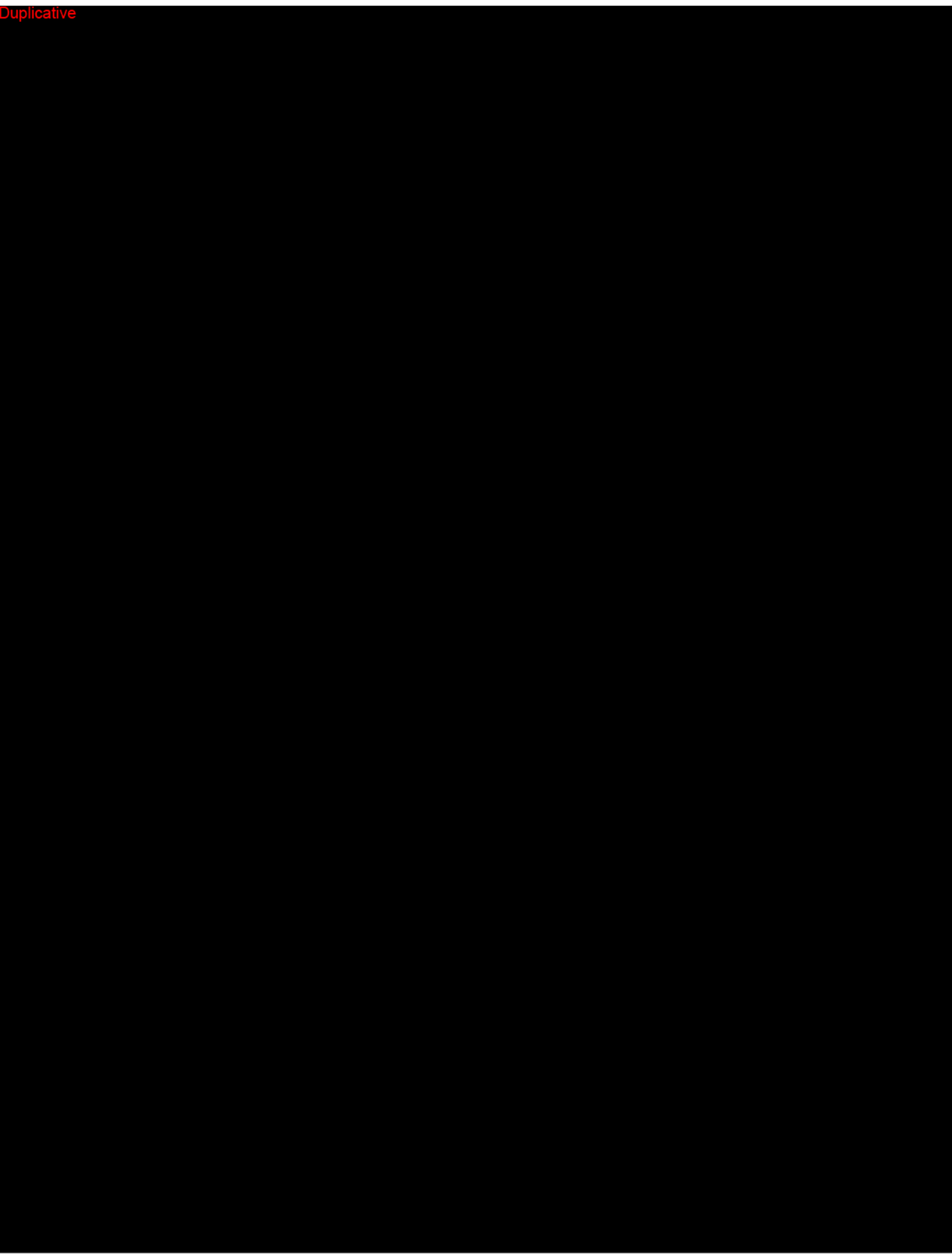
The month of October was a welcome chance to

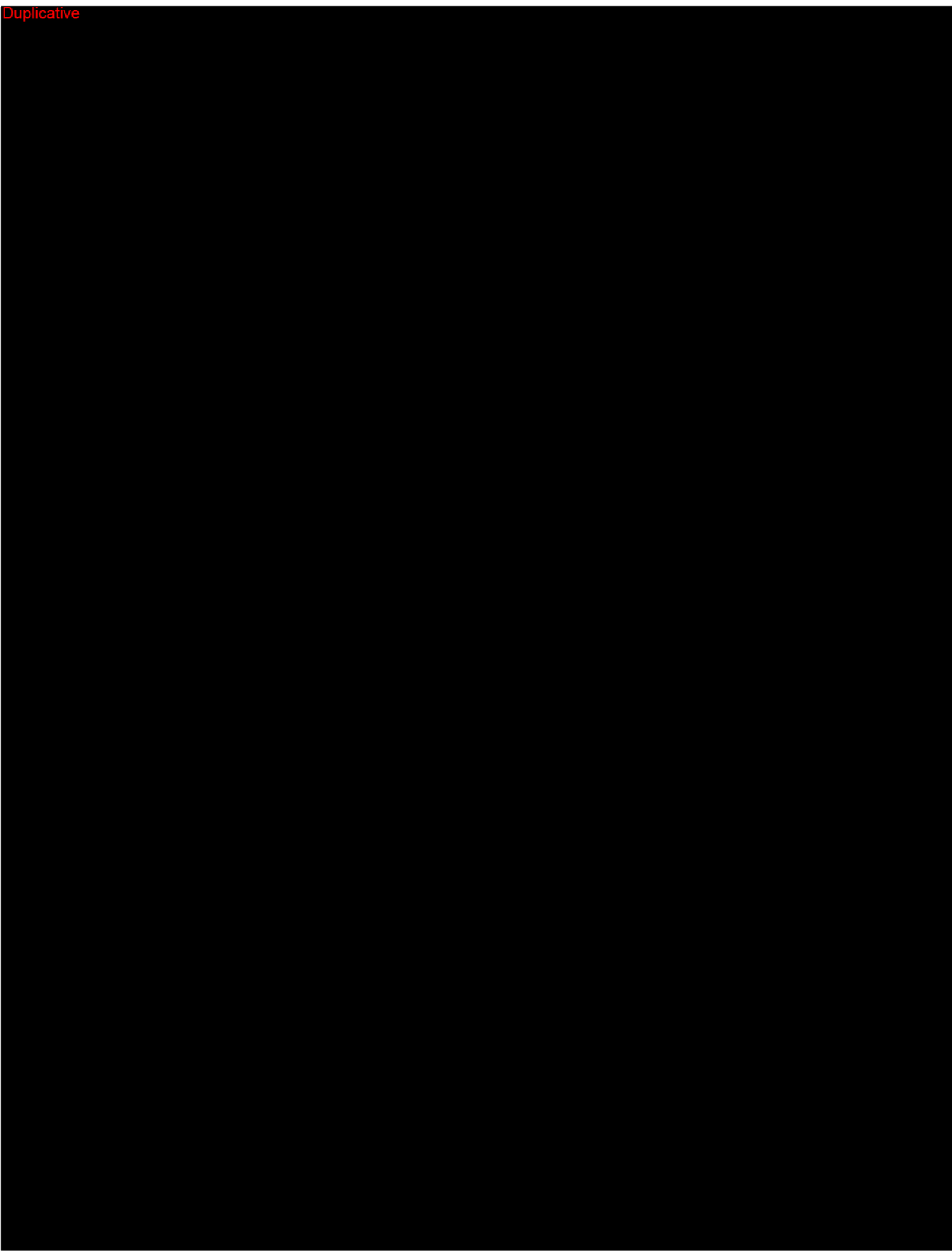
relax. VANDEGRIFT was now on her way to Australia. On 04 OCT there were 74 new Shellbacks initiated and VANDEGRIFT's only swim call for WESTPAC '96. On 12 OCT 1996, VANDEGRIFT's crew finally reached their well deserved reward, Australia. In their two port visits of Albany and Sydney, Australia, the crew had a chance to see some beautiful sights and experience amazing things ranging from waters off the coast of Australia to holding a koala and petting kangaroos. Once two port visits in Australia were finished, VANDEGRIFT headed for Suva, Fiji and one more major change before the end of 1996.

31 Oct-12 Nov For the next week CDR J.A. Corsi introduced CDR David Armstrong, his relief, to VANDEGRIFT. On 05 Nov, prior to arriving in Pearl Harbor, CDR Armstrong assumed command during an underway Change of Command ceremony. CDR Corsi left soon after arrival in Hawaii, headed for shore duty in San Diego. Before leaving Pearl Harbor, VANDEGRIFT welcomed aboard some temporary additions to the crew -- TIGERS. For the next week family and friends of crew members would learn a little of what it meant to be on deployment on one of the finest ships in the fleet.

13 Nov On the morning of Wednesday, 13 November 1996, VANDEGRIFT returned to her home port of San Diego amid the cheers and tears of family and friends. Another deployment was over with everyone returning safe.

13 Nov-31 Dec The remainder of 1996 was the final reward for the crew of VANDEGRIFT, with all but three weeks being spent in post deployment and holiday leave periods. It was a needed time to regroup and prepare for the next work up cycle which had already begun.





Duplicative

